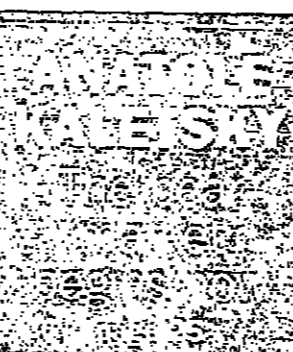


LAURENCE OLIVIER'S DOOMED LOVE FOR MARILYN MONROE

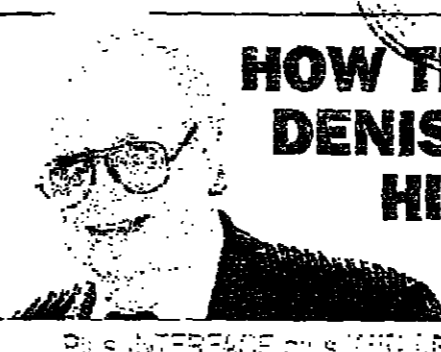
EXCLUSIVE

DICTIONARY OFFER TOYEN'S PAGE 12



HOW THEY VILIFIED DENIS POTTER, BY HIS DAUGHTER

EXCLUSIVE page 15



30p

Hand over Semtex, say Unionists

Our war is over now, says Adams

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SINN FEIN moved to break the deadlock over IRA decommissioning last night with a statement that all but declared the war was over.

"The violence we have seen must be for all of us now a thing of the past, over, done with and gone," Gerry Adams announced before President Clinton's arrival in Northern Ireland tomorrow. His party was "committed to exclusively peaceful and democratic means" and to "making conflict a thing of the past."

The Sinn Fein declaration came on the eve of the emergency recall of both the British and Irish parliaments today to pass new anti-terrorism laws after the Omagh bomb.

The statement was the first of a carefully-choreographed sequence of events devised by the British, Irish and American governments to enable Sinn Fein to join Northern Ireland's new shadow executive this Christmas.

But while Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern, the Taoiseach, welcomed the statement, almost before it had been published, David Trimble, Northern Ireland's First Minister, reacted cautiously.

The Unionist leader, who had demanded an unequivocal statement that the war was over, said that "carefully crafted words alone are not enough" and that Sinn Fein should be judged by its actions. "An end to the war means the weapons of terrorism must be destroyed and all forms of paramilitary violence must cease for good."

Sinn Fein will shortly cap

last night's statement by appointing Martin McGuinness, who is allegedly a member of the IRA's army council, as its representative to the international disarmament body.

Officials said they expected Mr Trimble, who has refused to speak to Mr Adams, to agree to meet the Sinn Fein president with other party leaders at Stormont.

Informed sources said the Unionists' final requirement before agreeing to Sinn Fein's participation in the shadow executive would be the decommissioning of a quantity of IRA Semtex.

The sources argued that Semtex, unlike guns, has no defensive use and there was therefore no possible republican argument for retaining it until the British military presence was scaled down and the Royal Ulster Constabulary reformed. However, senior Sinn Fein officials denied that that was part of the deal.

If Mr Trimble did agree to a bilateral meeting with Mr Adams it would be "very tense and very frosty", said one Unionist source. The First Minister would insist not only on total decommissioning within two years, but on an end to all IRA punishment beatings, kidnappings, targeting and surveillance.

Downing Street called Mr Adams's statement "significant and welcome".

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said it should "help to create the necessary atmosphere of trust in the intentions of Sinn Fein and those with whom they are

associated". Mr Ahern said it was "a further positive contribution by Sinn Fein to the building of confidence and trust".

But headline Unionists opposed to the Good Friday accord dismissed it as word games. They pointed to Mr Adams's past denials that he represented the IRA, and to the IRA's Sunday statement rejecting decommissioning.

The statement "falls far short of a permanent end to their campaign", said Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party.

Officials close to Mr Trimble privately called it a "small step in the right direction", but said he would have to consult colleagues before responding.

Mr Blair is to give his reaction to Mr Adams's statement today at the opening of the debate on the Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Bill.

The Government has written fresh safeguards into the Bill. It explicitly makes plain that the word of a senior police officer alone will not be enough to secure the conviction of someone for being a member of a banned organisation outside the Northern Ireland peace process.

The Bill itself does not name the organisations targeted. Those concerned are referred to as "proscribed organisations which are not maintaining a complete ceasefire".

IRA bankers, page 4
Sean O'Callaghan, page 16



Patagonian commandos raising the flag on the Minquiers, where later PC Graeme Fitchett and his men restored British sovereignty



British bobby retakes reef for Queen

FROM PHILIP JEUNE IN JERSEY AND BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

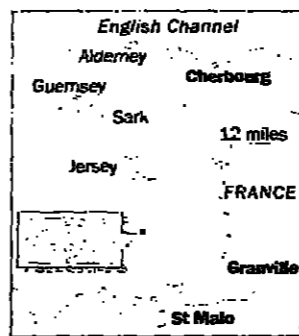
A BRITISH bobby yesterday restored law and order to the most southerly outpost of the British Isles. Hostilities with the non-existent kingdom of Patagonia were averted after a flurry of diplomatic activity.

Hours after an invasion force claimed the Minquiers (pronounced Minkies) archipelago in the English Channel as a Patagonian colony, PC Graeme Fitchett jumped from an inflatable dinghy and reasserted Her Majesty's rule over the tiny reef 12 miles south of Jersey.

In Paris the self-styled Patagonian Consul-General formally agreed to return the Union Jack captured from the islands in the dawn raid.

The diplomatic crisis arose after Jean Raspail, a French novelist, maverick and diplomatic representative of the 19th century King Ordé-Antoine I of Patagonia, issued a statement on Monday announcing that the tiny British territory had been seized by Patagonian troops in retaliation for Britain's "occupation" of the Falklands which M Raspail claims as part of the Patagonian kingdom.

While maintaining the Patagonian royal claim to the



rocks, M Raspail has now said he will present the captured flag to the British Embassy in Paris later this week. But even before the diplomatic breakthrough, the islands were formally retaken

by PC Fitchett. Taking care to avoid the rotting carcasses of dead seagulls and piles of bird droppings, he strode up the concrete jetty to the huts that, apart from birds' nests, are the only dwellings on the reef.

Watched by flocks of bemused cormorants and gulls, he gathered evidence of the Patagonian invasion, took photographs and watched with pride as the Union Jack was hoisted once again on the solitary flagpole.

The invaders, a crack force of Patagonian marines thought to number four, had replaced the British flag with the Patagonian version, nailed the Patagonian heraldic em-

blem to a hut, plastered the area with car stickers in Patagonian colours and, in a signal outrage, placed the loo — the rock's most important piece of architecture — under Patagonian sovereignty.

A Jersey couple, Peter and Anne Mourant, were the first to discover the Patagonian incursion when they arrived at the rock in their 40-foot cruiser for a barbecue. Noticing the strange flag, Mrs Mourant left her husband preparing lunch and went ashore, immediately going into action for Queen and country. She took down the Patagonian flag and stickers and informed her

Continued on page 2, col 4

Pet quarantine may be ended

A new report recommends abolition of anti-rabies quarantine for pets travelling between Britain, the rest of the EU and some other countries. Nick Brown, the new Agriculture Minister, is understood to be sympathetic to the proposal. Page 2

Hick dropped

John Crawley was preferred to Graeme Hick for England's Australia tour. Bowlers Peter Such and Alex Tudor were surprise choices. Page 40

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Clinton refuses to bail out Yeltsin

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT CLINTON last night made an impassioned appeal to Russia to persist with economic reforms and warned everyone from President Yeltsin down to schoolchildren of the dangers of reverting to the failed policies of the country's communist past.

On the first day of his visit to Moscow, where summit meetings with Mr Yeltsin were overshadowed by Russia's deepening political and economic crises, the American leader offered moral support but no cash to bail out the country's bankrupt economy.

Mr Clinton told students at Moscow State University of International Relations that Russia's only salvation was to continue opening the country up to foreign investment and to obey the rules of the global economy.

"I do not believe it is by reverting to the failed policies of the past. I do not believe it is by stopping the reform process in midstream that Russia

will solve its problems," he said. "I believe you will create the conditions of growth if — but only if — you continue to move decisively along the path of democratic, market-oriented constructive revolution."

Mr Yeltsin, unable to form a Government because of a hostile communist-led parliament, is under domestic pressure to revert to the Soviet-era policy of printing more money and nationalising failing industries.

During his meeting with Mr Clinton he hinted that he would have to make "tactical adjustments" and enlarge the state role in the economy to see the country through the ruble crisis. However, he insisted that he remained committed to the reforms of the past seven years. Mr Yeltsin was quoted as saying: "The country will follow the path of creating a market economy and democratic society."

Warring deputies, page 11
End of US era, page 16



Vogue scraps launch party

Vogue magazine has cancelled next week's party to celebrate the launch of its Russian edition because of fears that it would be in bad taste considering the country's economic crisis. Richard Beeston writes.

Condé Nast, Vogue's publishers, had invited some 400 guests including Karl Lagerfeld, Naomi Campbell, Donatella Versace, Domenico Dolce and Stefan Gabbana. However, the magazine has already been published and is being sold on the streets of Moscow. Cosmopolitan and Elle launched successful Russian editions in more prosperous times.

Barclays admits big Russian loss

BY RICHARD MILES AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

BECOMING the first British high street bank to admit its exposure to the growing financial crisis in Russia, Barclays yesterday announced that it has so far lost £250 million.

City analysts believe other banks will also have to set aside substantial sums to cover losses caused by the sharp fall in the value of Russian shares and the Russian Government's decision to defer foreign debt payments.

Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, said the bank's total exposure to Russian banking and securities trading was £340 million, mostly in the form of government securities and credit with financial institutions. He added that the provisions were "very conservative".

Growing fears that the problems in Russia could precipitate a global financial crisis caused another day of extreme volatility on world stock markets. In London the FTSE 100 ended 80.3 lower at 5169.1, having earlier traded

173 points down after sharp overnight losses in New York. But Wall Street reopened in upbeat mood, with the Dow Jones marching 224.25 points higher to make good almost half of Monday's alarming 554-point setback.

Leading article, page 17
Business news, page 21
City comment, page 23
Anastole Kaletsky, page 25



"Buy Prozac!"

ITV companies decide to move News at Ten

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

THE ITV companies have decided after months of deliberation to move News at Ten to earlier in the evening. A formal application will be made to the Independent Television Commission within the next two weeks.

The companies will ask the Commission in time for its next meeting on September 17 for permission to run their main evening news at 6.30pm.

The move is likely to cause political controversy because politicians have always liked the shop window that

News at Ten gives them. The House of Commons often divides at 10.15pm and many famous votes, such as the one to join the European Community and the 1979 vote that brought down the Callaghan Government, were shown live on News at Ten.

The ITV companies want to move the famous fixed spot in national viewing in order to create a more competitive schedule. Because of the 9pm threshold to protect children from more adult viewing ITV feature films and dramas are often interrupted for 40 minutes by News at Ten followed by the regional

news. By the time the film resumes, a significant slice of the audience has gone to bed.

It is believed that the big three companies in ITV — Carlton, Granada and United — have been behind the plan to move News at Ten for some time but have been aware of the proposal's extreme sensitivity.

The first time the ITV companies tried to move the programme, in June 1993, the news leaked prematurely and everyone from John Major, the Prime Minister, and the late John Smith, the Labour leader wrote to the ITC

expressing concern about the move. Mr Major's worry was that with ITV's main news bulletin moving to the early evening the BBC's Nine O'Clock News would have no effective competition.

The opponents at the time included the Archbishop of Canterbury and there was also a letter of concern from Buckingham Palace, but the chances are that the ITV companies will get their way this time.

The plan to move News at Ten to 6.30pm would almost certainly include a catch-up bulletin at 11pm, possibly lasting 15 minutes.

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Japan	67	17	75%
New Zealand	49	15	69%
USA	24	6	75%

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Minister to publish report urging end of rabies quarantine



By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A REPORT commissioned by the Government that recommends the abolition of anti-rabies quarantine for pets travelling between Britain and the rest of the EU and some other countries is to be published later this month.

Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, is understood to be sympathetic to the proposal, which, if

implemented, would be the first significant breach in laws in force since early this century.

The report, by Ian Kennedy, Professor of Health Law, Ethics and Policy at University College London, is understood to say that vaccination and microchip identification of pets could keep rabies out just as effectively as quarantine.

Publication of the report will be followed by several months of consultation with interested parties.

If he wished, Mr Brown could then implement its recommendations fairly swiftly simply by amending existing legislation.

The report, which has been in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture for some weeks, was commissioned last October by Mr Brown's predecessor, Jack Cunningham. Its publication had been expected by the spring or early summer. The RSPCA sent a letter to Mr Brown last week criticising the delay. Peter

Davies, the society's director-general, said thousands of rabies-free animals were being quarantined unnecessarily every year.

As late as last week, ministry officials were telling inquirers that there was no chance of Professor Kennedy's report being published before Parliament returned from the summer recess in mid-October. By yesterday, however, a senior spokesman had changed the official line, saying the report's findings

would be released later this month.

The RSPCA argues that vaccination and microchipping, backed up by "pet passports" certifying that blood tests have been done to prove the vaccine has worked, would be as effective as quarantine and much kinder to the pets involved. It also says that ending quarantine would reduce the number of pets being smuggled into Britain.

Some 9,000 dogs and cats go through Britain's 81 licensed quar-

antine kennels every year. The animals spend six months in solitary confinement, to eliminate any risk of cross-contamination, at an average cost to their owners of £1,500. The strongest opposition to reform has come from quarantine kennel owners who have invested hundreds of thousands of pounds in isolation facilities, and from vets who fear that controls based on vaccination would be difficult to enforce.

Anti-drug team switches focus to young people

TEENAGERS, women and ethnic minorities will be the targets of drug treatment teams as part of a £217 million boost to the Government's anti drug campaign announced yesterday.

The new move follows growing concern in Whitehall that existing services have been aimed at white, middle-aged and middle-class abusers.

Keith Hellawell, the UK Drugs Co-ordinator and Special Adviser to the Prime Minister, warned that only one fifth of drug users needing help received treatment and that services for young people were sparse.

"We know that of those people who need treatment at the moment only about one fifth have treatment services available for them. We also know that young people as a group are becoming more involved in drugs, addicted to drugs but we are short of specific treatment services for them," Mr Hellawell told a press conference in Whitehall announcing the extra cash for the £1.4 billion-a-year anti-drug drive.

He suggested that last week's examination results could have been affected by drug use among young people. An extra £0.5 million is to be pumped into Drug Action Teams to tackle local drug problems and to undertake research on abuse and the effectiveness of different treatment programmes. Mr Hellawell said: "We don't

Women and racial minorities are also targets in Government's battle, writes Richard Ford

will support the new Drug Treatment and Testing Orders, aimed at challenging offenders' drug problems and which courts will soon be able to impose.

Pilot projects are being set up in Croydon, Liverpool and Gloucester before being rolled out across the UK.

Figures produced by the Department of Health showed that for every Pound spent on drug misuse treatment, cost savings of more than £3 were made through reductions in crime and the cost of bringing someone to trial.

Penal reform and drug treatment groups welcomed the government's announcement of extra cash for the fight against drugs.

Paul Cavadino, principal officer of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders said: "Up to now, two thirds of the money spent on dealing with drugs has been spent on law enforcement and just one third on prevention, education and treatment combined. This has been a regrettably lop-sided approach."

"Law enforcement cannot provide the answer to drug misuse. In contrast, prevention and treatment are highly cost-effective ways of tackling the drug problem."

But Roger Howard, of the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse, warned that the money might not be enough to prevent the closure of more drug treatment services.



Jean Raspail, 73, with the filched Union Jack and Patagonia's coat of arms

Bobby retakes reef for Queen

Continued from page 1

husband, a top Jersey lawyer, who contacted the island authorities by marine radio.

"I just thought it was an odd piece of material," she said. "But when I lowered it, I

realised it was a brand new flag, though I didn't know which country it represented."

Accompanying PC Fitchett were two members of Jersey's honorary police force, Constable Frank Amy and Centenier David Cadore. They represented the parish of Grouville, of which the Minquiers are a part, although policing the reef is normally confined to the annual picnic.

"It's too early to see if an offence has been committed, but it's nice to see the Union Jack flying... hopefully it will stay that way," Centenier Cadore said. In Paris, a spokesman for the British Embassy said: "Honour has been restored."

M Raspail wrote a book in 1981 about King Orélie-Antoine, a slightly unhinged French adventurer named Antoine de Tournens who was proclaimed King of Patagonia in 1860. The writer later decid-

ed to reinvent his lost kingdom, complete with navy, diplomatic corps and an expansionist foreign policy.

A hiccup in yesterday's peace negotiations in Paris came when M Raspail, 73, announced he was prepared to return the filched British flag but only on "neutral territory", by which he meant the bar of one of the most expensive hotels in Paris. "I propose to do it, say on Thursday, on neutral ground such as the Hotel Crillon or the Hotel Bristol," he said.

The Hotel Crillon is where the French Government houses visiting heads of state, but London balked at accepting the return of its flag after a hostile land-grab in a bar.

A breakdown in negotiations was averted when he finally agreed to bring the flag to the embassy, and so end one of the oddest chapters in modern diplomatic history.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Detective in murder inquiry is robbed

A Scotland Yard officer who was sent to the Bahamas to advise on the inquiry into the murder of a British tourist has been robbed at gunpoint. Superintendent Brian Morris had been on Paradise Island for less than 48 hours when he was held up in a taxi. Two men approached him as the taxi drew up near the Cabinet Office in Fort Fincastle. Acting in line with the advice given to tourists by the Foreign Office, the officer made no attempt to overpower the robber but handed over \$500 in cash and his watch. The driver was robbed of \$50.

Yesterday Mr Morris refused to comment about the incident, but claimed it did not interfere with his work. Speaking at the inquiry headquarters in Nassau he said: "I am here to do a job and I am doing that. I have not been distracted and I am concentrating on the work I have to do."

Mr Morris was in the Bahamas to advise local police on investigating the murder of Joanne Clarke, 24.

Judge clears Hide

A judge today cleared Herbie Hide, a world heavyweight boxing champion, of assaulting two amateur fight trainers after one alleged victim failed to appear in court to give evidence. Hide, 27, from Norwich, who holds the World Boxing Organisation crown, had denied attacking the coaches while training for a fight in a gymnasium in the city in March last year. The judge said the absence of a key witness would make it impossible for Hide to receive a fair trial.

Lost boy found dead

The body of a boy found under a skylight window at a community centre was identified last night as Ryan Hunter, 9, who had been missing from home since Monday. He is believed to have fallen through the window of the centre, only 200 yards from his home on the Spencer estate in Northampton, as he scrambled across the roof of the single-storey building. Friends said it was one of his favourite places, and that children used the large expanse of flat roof for playing games.

Royal appointment

Simon Lewis, 39, a public relations adviser, began work at Buckingham Palace yesterday in the new post of communications secretary to the Queen. His salary is reported to be £230,000 a year. Mr Lewis has joined the Palace on a two-year secondment from his employers Centrica, the parent company of British Gas, who will continue to pay the majority of his salary. The Palace will top it up with an estimated £75,000 a year from the Civil List. His job will be to devise long-term strategies.

Gillie's jewellery sold

Jewellery given by Queen Victoria to her faithful servant John Brown sold at auction yesterday for £11,534. A gold stick pin with a miniature portrait of the royal gillie, inscribed with the words "From VR John 27 March 1883", fetched £4,370 and was among ten lots that went to unnamed individuals and dealers at the Sotheby's sale at Gleneagles Hotel, Perthshire. The auctioneers had expected the private collection to fetch about £7,000. It was thought that interest was fuelled by the film *Mrs Brown*.

Police officer banned

A senior police officer who admitted driving while twice the legal alcohol limit has been banned for 18 months and fined £300. Chief Superintendent Stewart Hindley, 42, divisional commander of Greater Manchester Police's Wigan division, will now face his Chief Constable at a disciplinary hearing after the hearing before Rochdale magistrates. He was found to have 174mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood after a patrol car stopped him following an irregular manoeuvre, the court heard. The legal limit is 80mg.

Sheepdog's ordeal

An over-enthusiastic sheepdog survived unscathed after falling more than 100ft down a cliff while trying to head off a stray lamb. Meg, a two-year-old border collie, went straight back to work after being rescued by firemen from a ledge in the 400ft deep quarry near her owner's hill farm at Tredegar, South Wales. She had spent the night stranded in the quarry. Joan Price, the sheep farmer's wife, said: "Meg was rounding up the sheep with other dogs and was so intent on her task that she did not see the edge."

CORRECTION

It is the Naval and Military Club that is moving to London's St James's Square and planning to sell a painting, not, as wrongly stated in a report (August 27), the Army and Navy Club. The latter remains in Pall Mall and is not selling any work of art.

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Schools want help in teaching literacy

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

LITERACY is not being taught properly to secondary school pupils, and teachers feel they are letting pupils down for lack of guidelines on how to improve standards, according to a new study.

The School of Education at Reading surveyed attitudes to the teaching of literacy in 120 schools. More than two thirds felt they were not examples of good practice in this area and most wanted their teachers to be trained in literacy teaching.

Test results from the past ten years suggest that many pupils leave primary schools without the literacy required for secondary school work. But the research, by Winston Brookes and Andy Goodwyn, reveals "a deep confusion" in secondary schools about what "literacy" is.

Secondary teachers also believe that placing pupils in sets according to ability damages those in the lower streams. Although sets help teachers to manage some classes, and it was generally thought that bright pupils progressed faster when separated, the lower sets produced greater discipline problems.

Builders make way for MPs' return

By POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE green benches are back in the Commons chamber and the builders' equipment has been cleared from the corridors. MPs returning to Westminster today to pass emergency anti-terrorism laws may wonder why anyone ever doubted that the place would be ready.

But within hours of their departure tomorrow, the seals will be gone again and the drilling will recommence as 1,800 workmen push on with a £10 million repair and renovation programme that must be finished by October 19, when the House returns for the autumn "term".

But by yesterday heavy machinery had been taken off the site and smaller tools moved into temporary storage space around the Palace of Westminster. At the same time, catering supplies are being brought in to feed the returning MPs and their staff.

The cost of the interruption will fall mainly on the contractors themselves, who were warned beforehand that unexpected events might affect their timetables. One Commons source said yesterday: "We make sure that all of our contractors are aware of the flexibility of response that we expect from them. We hold a briefing for all the people that work here."

The contract for repairs to the Commons chamber stipulated that the space must be put back in order within two days if necessary. Some of the estimated 100 companies involved in this summer's building projects at Westminster have switched staff to different tasks for the duration of the emergency sitting.

The men who are installing new computer cables along the Commons committee room corridor — which is a major thoroughfare for MPs — have been told to retreat into the committee rooms and undertake only "silent work", such as wiring, for the next two days.

Other employers will have little choice but to pay workers for doing nothing. However, the money will cover only two eight-hour days, not the overtime which many of the builders have been doing in an attempt to finish their projects on time.

Even two days' delay could make the difference between meeting and breaching the October 19 deadline. "It's going to be close," said one of those involved.

James Robertson, of the Sergeant at Arms office, which is responsible for administration at the Palace of Westminster, admitted that the decision to recall Parliament had caused a few problems. "It has been hard work, but not undoable," he said.

Terror Bill modified, page 4

Hounded
defeats
woman

Jail for
who am

Popover cat en

سكزا من الاصل

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Hounded man defeats his woman boss

Russell Jenkins on sex discrimination at the bank

BRITAIN'S youngest woman bank manager hounded a young trainee simply because he was a man, an industrial tribunal ruled yesterday. Kathryn Dowse, 21, was rude and patronising towards Andrew Gilbert, 23, the only male at the branch.

He was treated less favourably than female colleagues, ordered to mop the floor and finally sacked because Ms Dowse saw him as a threat to her authority, the tribunal said. Mr Gilbert won his claim for sex discrimination against the Midland Bank, and was awarded £4,721 for loss of income and injury to his feelings.

Women were among his closest supporters. A female colleague gave evidence for him, and his mother, Stella McGuinness, threw her arms around him when she realised he had won. She said: "His reputation was the big thing at stake. It is all very well for the Midland Bank man to say he is resilient but they did not see him when he fell into my arms in tears. My feelings about Miss Dowse are unprintable. I

am just so glad he won because he deserves it."

Mr Gilbert, of Handforth, Cheshire, who now works in a theatre box office in Crewe, said: "I am absolutely delighted. The judgment is more important than the monetary award to me." Asked what he thought now of his former manager, he replied: "I try not to think of her any more."

Mr Gilbert worked at the branch in a supermarket in Heywood, Manchester, managed by Ms Dowse. The tribunal chairman, John Goodman, said: "The inference we draw on the evidence is that Kathryn Dowse perceived Mr Gilbert as a young, assertive man who posed some sort of threat to her authority as a relatively inexperienced young female manager."

"One illustration we find illuminating is her insistence on him participating in the mopping of the floor."

The tribunal had heard that Mr Gilbert, a £12,000-a-year probationer, was the only male among seven staff. He was sacked on New Year's Eve

after five months in the post and before he had completed his probationary period.

He said that Ms Dowse was consistently rude and patronising towards him. He was told that there was an informal arrangement among staff to allocate cleaning duties but on one occasion, he was told by Ms Dowse: "You are to mop the floor today."

Mr Gilbert said that when a female colleague mislaid her keys she received a "slap on the wrist" but he received two serious verbal warnings. He also accused Ms Dowse of "hounding" a former male employee out of the bank, an allegation which she denied. He said: "She set me up and watched me in order to end my employment. She was regularly rude and patronising towards me. She would not speak to me at all if we were the only two members of staff in the branch."

His account was supported by a former colleague, Lisa Carney, 31, who told the tribunal that members of staff urged Mr Gilbert to keep a diary in case he was sacked.

Ms Dowse said in evidence that Mr Gilbert had been dismissed for poor performance, a bad attitude and a lack of initiative. She also said that he had breached security procedures over leaving unsigned credit cards around.

However Mr Goodman, for the tribunal panel, ruled that the bank had been "unreasonable and unfair". Mr Gilbert had been treated less favourably than other female employees, and the senior manager said to have authorised his dismissal had acted solely on information from Ms Dowse and made no attempt to speak to Mr Gilbert about her complaints.

In his ruling, Mr Goodman said that the bank spoke in its literature of steps it took to prevent discrimination but "no matter how pious and well-intended those sentiments are, the employer must



Kathryn Dowse saw Mr Gilbert as threat to her authority, the tribunal said

Broker 'was sidelined after having baby'

By A CORRESPONDENT

A STOCKBROKER returned from maternity leave to find she had been sidelined from her £93,000-a-year job and colleagues gossiping about her partner becoming a house-husband, an industrial tribunal heard yesterday.

Victoria Kimmings, 29, was shocked to find she had effectively been demoted with two male traders each hired on £235,000-a-year to deal with her former clients.

Miss Kimmings, who is claiming sexual discrimination, told the tribunal that when she complained to her superior and head of European sales Geoff Houston at ABN-Amro she was told not to worry because "women were often emotional when they returned from maternity leave."

She told the hearing: "I told Geoff Houston I was extremely committed to ABN-Amro and my clients and I didn't want to lose any."

"I told him I had moved home to be closer to work and my husband had given up his job to look after our daughter so I could pursue my career."

"I said that my position was untenable since my clients had been taken off me. He seemed to disregard all my comments and I was so frustrated about this I burst into tears."

Geoff Houston told me that I shouldn't worry as women often get very emotional when they return from maternity leave.

Miss Kimmings had worked her way up the bank, starting as a secretary earning £7,500-a-year in January 1987 to becoming a trader within five years.

When she left the company, based in Moorgate, on maternity leave in September 1997, she was being paid a basic salary of £58,000 with an additional £35,000 in guaranteed bonuses and dealt exclusively with the top 100 companies on the stock market — the FTSE 100.

However, when she returned to work on February 2 this year, two traders formerly from the Union Bank of Switzerland had been recruited and taken over her best clients Fidelity Investments

and Royal Sun Alliance. While on maternity leave, Miss Kimmings said she and her husband Neil, 29, moved closer to London from Lincolnshire to Welwyn Garden City in Hertfordshire and Mr Kimmings quit his £30,000-a-year job at oil distributors Chandlers Oil and Gas to look after their new-born baby Emily, now 11 months.

Mrs Kimmings said: My husband gave up his job so he could look after our daughter, which would allow me to focus on my career. I later heard that it was the talk of the office that we had such an unusual arrangement."

Mrs Kimmings told the hearing at Woburn, central London, that when she returned to work her name had also been taken off ABN-Amro's internal telephone list and the company refused to let her work with her former clients telling her she either accepted the lesser role on the Small Companies or take a payout and leave.

She said despite being moved back to the main trading desk she is given no work to do — except answering the phones for other traders.

David Griffith-Jones, counsel for the company, said Miss Kimmings was the one who suggested a £90,000 pounds pay-out. "You were the one that raised the possibility of redundancy. There was never any pressure put on you to leave. An option of a payment was given to you as a result of your request."

The hearing continues today.



Andrew Gilbert and his mother, Stella McGuinness

also take practical and active steps to ensure they are implemented — I can say quite emphatically we do not regard the conduct of the bank as indicative of taking such steps as were reasonably practical to avoid discrimination."

Ms Dowse, now 22, was not in the hearing when the tribu-

nal made its ruling. It is understood that she has been transferred and currently works as a lending officer for the Midland's Willenhall branch, near Wolverhampton.

Mike Goddard, spokesman for the Midland Bank said: "We are obviously disappointed. We are going to have to

look very carefully at the findings of the tribunal and, with legal guidance, decide whether we should go for an appeal. We take all complaints of harassment / discrimination very seriously and have a comprehensive policy and procedures in place."

School bus driver was drunk

By Gillian Harris

A BUS driver who went on a nine-hour drinking session the day before starting a new job in which he took up to 79 children to school was fined £500 and banned from driving for four years yesterday.

John Stevenson, 48, had driven five miles and dropped off the teenage children when police stopped him for a routine vehicle safety check. The officers found the bus to be in a fit condition but smelt alcohol on the driver's breath.

They arrested him after a breathalyser test showed that he was twice over the legal limit. It was 8.45am.

Yesterday Hamilton Sheriff Court was told that Stevenson, of Holytown, Lanarkshire, had been convicted of a similar offence in 1996 and banned for a year. After the latest incident he was sacked from his part-time job with Stuarts of Carluke Coaches.

Oliver Adair, Stevenson's solicitor, said that his client had been drinking for nine hours the day before and had "been asked for his new job."

"He early me to indicate to the court that had he known that was the level he would not have considered driving the vehicle. He is genuinely remorseful and distressed."

Jail for tax cheat miser who amassed a fortune

A WINDOW cleaner who amassed a personal fortune of almost half a million pounds and lived a life of luxury after defrauding the Inland Revenue for 15 years last night found himself in the less than luxurious surroundings of a British jail.

Peter Baker's fortunes flourished after a financial broker whose windows he cleaned encouraged him to invest his money. Baker, 60, began looking into off-shore accounts and foreign properties, buying a villa in Portugal and holding bank accounts at home and abroad, including Jersey.

But Baker failed to declare his earnings to the Inland Revenue for 15 years. He admitted 17 charges of income tax fraud, involving £114,734, taking place between April 1981 and March 1995.

Mark Lucraft, prosecuting, told Reading Crown Court that an audit in 1995 found that Baker had assets of £300,000 and almost £200,000 tied up in villas and land. He tied up in villas and land. He said: "Before going into business on his own he was employed by his brothers. He began to feel he was not being properly paid and as the years went on he began to keep more and more money. He denied owning any assets off-shore. It was clear there were serious

irregularities in his tax affairs."

Christopher Johnston, for the defence, said Baker was a hoarder who had no experience in the ways of the world. Cleaning the windows of a financial broker in the heart of Reading was when the turning point came. The financial broker had provided Mr Baker with the incentive to do something with his money.

"He had a genuine belief that he wasn't doing any criminal act. He was of the opinion that he made this money through his hard grafting and he wanted to put it to some good use."

Mr Johnston said Baker had a mental disorder in that he was a compulsive hoarder. "In previous times he might have been described as a miser. One might say it is just plain greed."

Sentencing Baker, from Reading, Berkshire, to twelve

months in prison for each of the offences, to run concurrently, Judge Stanley Spence said: "You benefit from spending by the public authorities but you don't pay your share, other people pay it for you. The judge made a confiscation order to reclaim the overdue funds and Baker was also ordered to pay costs estimated at £10,000."

After the case, a tax inspector from the Special Compliance Office said Baker had been given every opportunity to reveal his financial situation but had failed to do so.

Baker's neighbours last night said suspicions of illegal wrong-doings had been rife. One said: "They have always kept themselves to themselves but we knew something fishy was going on. But we never imagined they had that much stashed away."

Another described Baker as very secretive: "I kept asking him to cut his pine trees a bit at the back of his garden because they were blocking the light to my house. But he told us he felt he needed his privacy."

Baker, who had more than £200,000 tied up with Portuguese property and land, also admitted £240,000 had been deposited in a Portuguese account.

Flap over cat ends in Bangkok

By A Correspondent

A MISSING cat is to be reunited with its British owner three months after escaping while in transit at Bangkok airport.

Ling, an eight-year-old Burmese, was handed in yesterday to the Thai Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (TSPCA) in Bangkok.

Ling's owner, Geoff Graham, a retired naval officer from Southsea, Hampshire, had flown back to Thailand a week after the pet went missing on June 6. He offered a £750 reward and TSPCA offices have since been flooded with hoax callers trying to claim the money.

But yesterday Vacharee Bancharern, who said she had recently been given the cat by a friend, went to the TSPCA, the cat by a friend, went to the TSPCA, which scanned a microchip in the animal's ear that proved its identity.



Ling in safe custody again

Ling was a neutered male she took the matter no further. It was only after a visit to a vet last week, when she was told that the cat in her possession was in fact a neutered male, that she again contacted the TSPCA.

Ling had been en route from Indonesia, where Mr Graham had been teaching at a school, to London. At Bangkok Ling escaped and the cat's carrier box arrived at Heathrow empty. Thai Airways accepted responsibility for the mix-up but told Mr Graham that it had no idea when or where the escape had occurred. Miss Vacharee said that Ling had been found wandering near Bangkok's Don Muang airport.

Mr Graham is planning to return to Thailand in three months to be reunited with Ling. He will then teach English at a school for the blind in the northern city Chiang Mai. Till then Ling will stay at an animal sanctuary in Bangkok.

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Anti-terror Bill modified to meet MPs' concerns

THE Government moved to defuse Labour backbench concerns over its emergency anti-terrorist laws yesterday by emphasising that the measures will contain safeguards against wrongful conviction.

Measures to be debated today take note of concerns over rights, reports Philip Webster

would be entirely for the court to weigh evidence against a suspect before conviction.

He added: "We face a very serious threat indeed from extremist terrorist splinter groups like the Real IRA, whose actions have already led to the loss of 28 lives in Omagh and the serious injury of scores more. This Bill is tough, it is necessary, but also contains safeguards for the rights of the accused."

Ministers made plain that the measure was intended to catch members of groups such as the Real IRA, the Continuity IRA and the Loyalist Volunteer Force which were not signed up to the peace process and they confirmed that it would be subject to annual review. The Bill says the new powers are being taken in relation to "proscribed organisations which are not maintaining a complete ceasefire".

The Government had been taken back by the strength of opposition among some Lab-

our MPs to the Bill. One senior backbencher, Robin Corbett, MP for Birmingham Erdington, said he was worried that the Government might be going down a "dreadfully mistaken" wrong road.

"I was there when the Prevention of Terrorism Act was put through originally for 12 months, 24 years ago, and I'm very sad this Government has not learned the lessons of what was done in a rush that night."

Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, made plain that his party would support the Bill because some of the safeguards that the Liberal Democrats had sought were now incorporated.

Andrew Mackay, the Shadow Northern Ireland secretary, also backed the Bill. "The lesson from Omagh is that public safety is still at risk. The protection of the public should be our foremost concern as we approach the early release of prisoners convicted of terrorist offences," he said.

As expected, the Bill grants the police powers to seize the financial assets of terrorists outside the peace process if they were used in the commission of a crime.

The measures also make it an offence to conspire within the United Kingdom to commit an offence in another jurisdiction. The move is designed to stop terror groups using Britain as a base from which to plan outrages elsewhere in the world. The Government has responded to concerns over the sweeping nature of the proposal by making plain that the act involved must constitute an offence under the law of the United Kingdom and under the law of the country in which it was committed. The consent of the Attorney-General will have to be obtained for proceedings to be instituted.

The Bill will be pushed through the Commons today in one sitting before the going to the Lords tomorrow. The Prime Minister will open proceedings with a statement on the Omagh bombing.



Gerry Adams yesterday: "We need to map a path out of the dark tunnel"

'Violence must be a thing of the past, over and gone'

THE Sinn Féin statement was issued from the party's press centre in Belfast in a one-page press release headlined: "Key-note Statement from Gerry Adams MP". The release said that Mr Adams had "today outlined his view of the current state of the peace process".

This was his statement in full: "My position on what happened in Omagh on 15 August is quite categoric. I have condemned it without equivocation."

"This appalling act was carried out by those opposed to the peace process."

"It is designed to wreck the process and everyone should work to ensure the peace process continues as is the clear wish of the people of the island. Sinn Féin has called

for a complete halt to such actions and has urged all armed groups to stop immediately.

"Those responsible are aligning themselves with the forces opposed to a democratic settlement in the conflict here."

"Sinn Féin is committed to exclusively peaceful and democratic means to achieve a way forward."

"We have to work politically to make the Omagh bombing the last violent incident in our country, the last incident of this kind. We are committed to making conflict a thing of the past."

"There is a shared responsibility to removing the causes and to achieving an end to all conflict. Sinn Féin believe the violence we have seen must be

for all of us now a thing of the past, over, done with and gone. In particular, the two governments have the principal responsibility, as do the party leaders.

"I am committed to play my part, as is Sinn Féin. Our role in the peace process provides a substantial body of irrefutable evidence to support this."

"The Good Friday agreement has the powerful potential to take us forward and we must urgently press on with its implementation."

"Inclusive and honest dialogue is the only way forward in this country."

"We need to map a path out of the dark tunnel that people feel themselves to be in. There is much despair around and the vacuum that has been created must be filled."

IRA bunkers hide tonnes of explosives

By NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA has at least three tonnes of Semtex explosives stored in bunkers under fields in remote areas of the Irish Republic.

The explosives were supplied by the Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, in the 1980s and used in the huge bombs that exploded in Manchester and London's Docklands after the collapse of the IRA ceasefire in 1996.

Most of the IRA's bunkers are in rural areas of Co Cork, Co Kerry and Co Limerick, where sympathisers have been willing to help. In addition to the Semtex, the bunkers store 650 AK47 rifles, up to 30 ArmaLite assault rifles and an assortment of machineguns, rocket launchers, flame-throwers and homemade mortars.

The bunkers, some of which are the size of small houses, are highly sophisticated. A raid by Irish police on an IRA bomb factory in Clonastee, Co Laois, in 1996 found a bunker built under a farmhouse and an adjoining farmyard with its own electricity supply and an air vent. The electricity powered a heating system to ensure the weapons were not ruined by moisture.

Terrorists reached the bunker through a covered manhole. The bunker was believed to have been built by Christopher Harford, who constructed up to a dozen before his death. During the raid, police uncovered 16 improvised mortars.

In the run-up to the IRA's second ceasefire in July last year, the terrorists moved huge amounts of weaponry to large dumps in the Republic. When the IRA was at "war" the weapons were stored in smaller dumps along the border.

Security sources have been alarmed by the continuing threat posed by the arms and explosives because the Real IRA, the dissident group responsible for the Omagh bomb, was founded by the main IRA's quartermaster-general, who controlled the underground bunkers. When he left the IRA last year, he gave an undertaking that he would not raid the bunkers, although there has been speculation that he took some

Semtex and detonators before the split.

However, the former quartermaster-general is likely to move carefully because the IRA's Green Book, which all "volunteers" have to sign, says that members will be shot if they steal or use IRA weapons without permission.

If the IRA takes the momentous step of decommissioning its Semtex - it would be the first time republicans have decommissioned voluntarily this century - they will do so under a system which has been carefully designed to avoid the appearance that they are surrendering. The IRA will be allowed to take the "DIY option" of destroying its own weapons. This will have to be verified by General John De Chastelain's body which is overseeing the process.

In a little-noticed paper in January 1996 - a month before the IRA ended its first ceasefire - Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness indicated that republicans might be prepared to consider the "DIY option". This would allow the IRA to maintain that it is not surrendering its arms to the British, whose jurisdiction over Northern Ireland they are committed to removing.

There are estimated to be between 400 to 500 members of the IRA, as well as a network of supporters throughout Ireland who store weapons and accommodate "volunteers".

Sean O'Callaghan, page 16



McGuinness: favoured "DIY decommissioning"



Straw: Bill "is tough but has safeguards"

Misgivings have been growing over the plan to allow terrorist suspects to be jailed on the word of a senior police officer backed by only limited supporting evidence. But the Government emphasised yesterday that such evidence would be tested in court to the full. Moreover, the Bill explicitly states that further corroboration would be needed and that a suspect could not be convicted "solely on the basis of the statement" from the policeman.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, emphasised that no inferences could be drawn from the silence of a suspect unless he or she had first had the opportunity to consult a solicitor. That also is made explicit in the Bill.

He also emphasised that under the new law, the burden of proof would remain on the prosecution, and the standard of proof would still be "beyond all reasonable doubt". It

Clintons renew a friendship with hope

By MARTIN FLETCHER

PRESIDENT and Mrs Clinton will renew their friendship tomorrow with the two young Belfast children, one Protestant and one Roman Catholic, who won their hearts on a visit in 1995.

David Sterrett, 14, and Catherine Hamill, 11, have also both been invited to Belfast's Waterfront Hall to hear Mrs Clinton speak there this afternoon, and

the President tomorrow morning. Catherine and David deeply moved the Clintons in November 1995 - and became symbols of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland - when they read pleas for a permanent end to violence before the President spoke.

Others will not be so lucky. The Orange Order's request for a meeting with President Clinton is believed to have received short shrift from the White

House, where memories of the order's contribution to July's Drumcree crisis are still fresh.

Precautions are also being taken to ensure that, when the President visits Omagh tomorrow afternoon, he does not come face to face with a councillor named Francie Mackey, a prominent member of the 32 County Sovereignty Committee which is widely regarded as the political wing of the Real IRA.



Prince Harry will find Eton steeped in tradition

Eton prepares to welcome Harry

By ALAN HAMILTON

WATCHED by the lenses of a now well-behaved media, Prince Harry today takes a giant step in his young life when he enrolls at Eton.

For the Prince, who will be 14 in two weeks, it is likely to be a stressful and unsettling day, coming as it does two days after the first anniversary of his mother's death. St James's Palace has nonetheless offered cameramen the opportunity to record his arrival, in the hope that they will then respect his privacy.

The day will evoke memories of Prince William's arrival three years ago, an event which united his estranged parents for the afternoon. Today the younger Prince will have only his father for support as he is handed into the care of Andrew Gailey, housemaster of Manor House, to join his brother.

Prince Harry delighted his father by passing his Common Entrance exam. After the death of their mother, the Prince of Wales felt strongly that his sons should be educated together for their mutual support. Prince Harry, is

regarded as academically the less able of the brothers, and their father is concerned that he does not live in Prince William's academic shadow. This was one reason why St James's Palace declined this week to confirm reports that Prince William had achieved 12 GCSE passes, three of them at A grade. The palace would only confirm that he had done "very well".

Prince Harry will wear the familiar Eton uniform of black tailcoat, waistcoat and striped trousers, which was introduced in 1820 as mourning on the death of George III, one of Eton's greatest benefactors. His school day will start with 7.30 breakfast in his house.

The school is steeped in arcane traditions, but Prince Harry will be relieved to find that some have mercifully fallen by the wayside. Fagging, in which new boys waited hand and foot on older pupils, has been abolished. So too has corporal punishment, although the highly polished beating block remains as a grim reminder of times past.



Smile provided by Mrs S. Phillips of Exeter.

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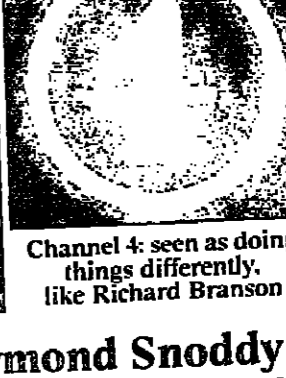
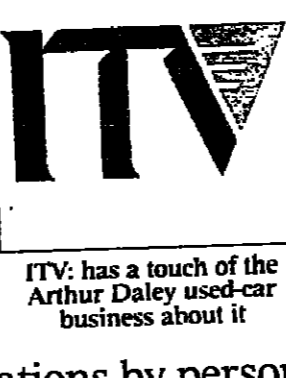
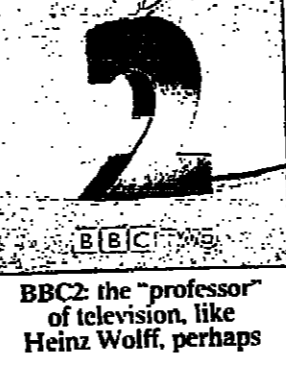
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Advertisement for NatWest Student Banking, featuring a large 'STUDENTS' logo and text: 'It's a great sign... more branches on or near campus than any other bank'.

Handwritten Arabic text: 'سكزا من الأصل'

Vertical text on the right edge of the page: 'Who's yo', 'consul visits cheerful love in jail'

Who's your favourite television channel?



BBC: staid, reliable, the Queen Victoria of television channels

BBC2: the "professor" of television, like Heinz Wolff, perhaps

ITV: has a touch of the Arthur Daley used-car business about it

Channel 4: seen as doing things differently, like Richard Branson

Research into what makes viewers complain shows that they categorise different stations by personality, reports Raymond Snoddy

TELEVISION viewers see BBC as "staid, stuffy, establishment and reliable", with the personality of a John Major or Queen Victoria, according to research published today.

In contrast, Channel 4 has the characteristics of Richard Branson, a channel that does things differently. Despite this, women over 45 think it is a channel the Queen would watch because of its horse racing and documentaries.

Women and skilled and unskilled workers (the C2Ds) see ITV as less stuffy than BBC and "jolly, lively and normal". However, men and

more upmarket viewers feel it is rather brash with a touch of the secondhand car dealer about it.

Women and the C2Ds women tend to see BBC2 as "an old professor", although men and more upmarket viewers see the channel as a trendy teacher or a social worker keen to "save the world". Channel 5 is too new to have a personality and viewers are unsure how to categorise it.

Research among cable and satellite viewers to be published by the Independent Television Commission today shows that viewers have clear

images in their minds about the personalities of the television channels they watch.

The main purpose of the research was to try to explain why cable and satellite viewers are much less likely to complain about what they see on their screens than terrestrial viewers. In 1997, although 20 per cent of commercial viewing was to cable and satellite channels, fewer than one in ten complaints was about these services.

The research found that viewers had clear mental images of channels and that one of the main reasons for making a complaint was because a

programme delivered something at odds with viewer's expectations of the channel.

The cable and satellite viewers who took part in the survey — terrestrial-only viewers were also included — said that they were less likely to complain because they felt in control of their viewing. Apart from the off switch, they could stop their subscription if they

felt unhappy with the service. Age and the younger profile of cable and satellite viewers may also be a factor. Research consistently shows that viewers' tolerance of stronger material on screen, such as bad language, violence and sex, decreases with age, particularly from the mid-40s. Viewers aged 45 to 65 dislike bad language and older women also mentioned sexual portrayal, especially minority preferences such as homosexuality, lesbianism and transvestism.

The research also showed that some satellite and cable channels are respected for

being informative, accurate and serious, particularly Discovery, National Geographic and History. One skilled worker told the researcher: "I've learned more from Discovery than in 15 years at school."

Although some older, downmarket males still favour the BBC news service, the ITC researchers found that Sky News and CNN were popular with viewers "who wanted a less establishment view of the news".

Cable and satellite channels such as LIVE TV, Challenge TV and Bravo provoked laughter among most women,

although older women said they were a little shocked by them. Even they said they were unable to take the channels seriously and described them as cheap and nasty.

Children's channels are seen as being of reasonable quality, while UK Gold, which shows old programmes from the established channels, is rated highly for quality.

□ Likely to Complain: Free-to-air versus subscription channels (from ITC information office: £5)

Letters, page 17
TV schedules, page 39



Channel 5: too new to have developed a personality

Consul visits 'cheerful' Noye in jail

By STEPHEN FARRELL in CADIZ AND FRANCES GIBB

THE captured fugitive Kenneth Noye was yesterday said to be calm and relaxed in a maximum-security Spanish prison. He had been visited by a British consul as he awaits extradition proceedings.

The visit came as a clearer picture emerged of his life among the British expatriate community on the Costa de la Luz, where his cash property dealings and Versace clothes prompted rumours about suitcases full of money. Mr Noye, 51, was said to have been polite and friendly, but had suddenly dropped out of the party circuit after one neighbour innocently joked that he resembled the Great Train Robber Ronnie Biggs.

Mr Noye, wanted for questioning by Kent police over the M25 road rage murder of Stephen Cameron in 1996, is being held at the maximum-security Puerto de Santa Maria Prison No 2, a few miles from Cadiz. Spanish police yesterday confirmed that the four-man squad who arrested him on Friday as he dined

with a woman companion were all armed.

He was kept in solitary confinement for the first two days after his arrest last Friday, but is now believed to be sharing a cell. There are half a dozen Britons among the 1,000 inmates but none in the remand wing where he is being held. He has access to a gym, exercise yard and library.

During a 40-minute visit yesterday morning Carlos Formby, the British Consul in Seville, spoke to Mr Noye through a glass panel and brought him two novels, magazines, an English-Spanish dictionary and an English Costa del Sol newspaper. Mr Formby said: "He is normal, considering the conditions, and is being very well treated. I must say he is a very nice person. He was friendly and polite and seemed quite cheerful. He seemed to be calm and a well-educated man."

Mr Noye has refused to provide details of the conditions in which he is being held to the press, referring all questions to Henry Milner, his British lawyer. Mr Noye wanted to know when he would be driven the 400 miles to Alcala Meco prison in Madrid, and how long the journey would take under armed guard. Mr Formby believed he would be transferred within the next 15 days.

Extradition proceedings are expected to take many months, and could be delayed if he is detained in Spain over alleged passport irregularities.

Mr Milner is one of the best known lawyers in the criminal defence field and has had a long line of high-profile work. He acted most recently, in the inquiry into the death of the murdered teenager Stephen Lawrence, for the Accout brothers and David Norris, three of the youths named in connection with the murder.

But he also acted in all the Brink's-Mat robbery trials for John Palmer, known as Gold Fingers, who was cleared of plotting to handle the haul from the £26 m robbery.

Other clients included the former boxer Terry Marsh, who was cleared of the attempted murder of the boxing promoter Frank Warren, and the Arsenal footballer David Hillier, who pleaded guilty to theft of a businessman's luggage in July 1996.

Mr Milner, a criminal defence solicitor for 19 years, runs his own small firm from Hatton Garden in London, where he is a sole practitioner. The firm has a strong reputation, handling all kinds of crime, but specialising in white-collar crime and VAT fraud, drugs importation cases, mortgage fraud, robbery, kidnapping and blackmail.

Mr Milner has also carved out a niche for himself in High Court bail applications, an unusual route by which he can seek the release of his clients after an appeal at the Crown Court has failed.

His main claim to fame is keeping clients out of the press and, where possible, out of prison, a task in which he has had some success. His work has, however, brought him into conflict with the police.



A chance to hear Heaney

A UNIQUE opportunity to hear Seamus Heaney read from *Opened Ground*, his new selection of poems written between 1966 and 1996, is being offered to Times readers.

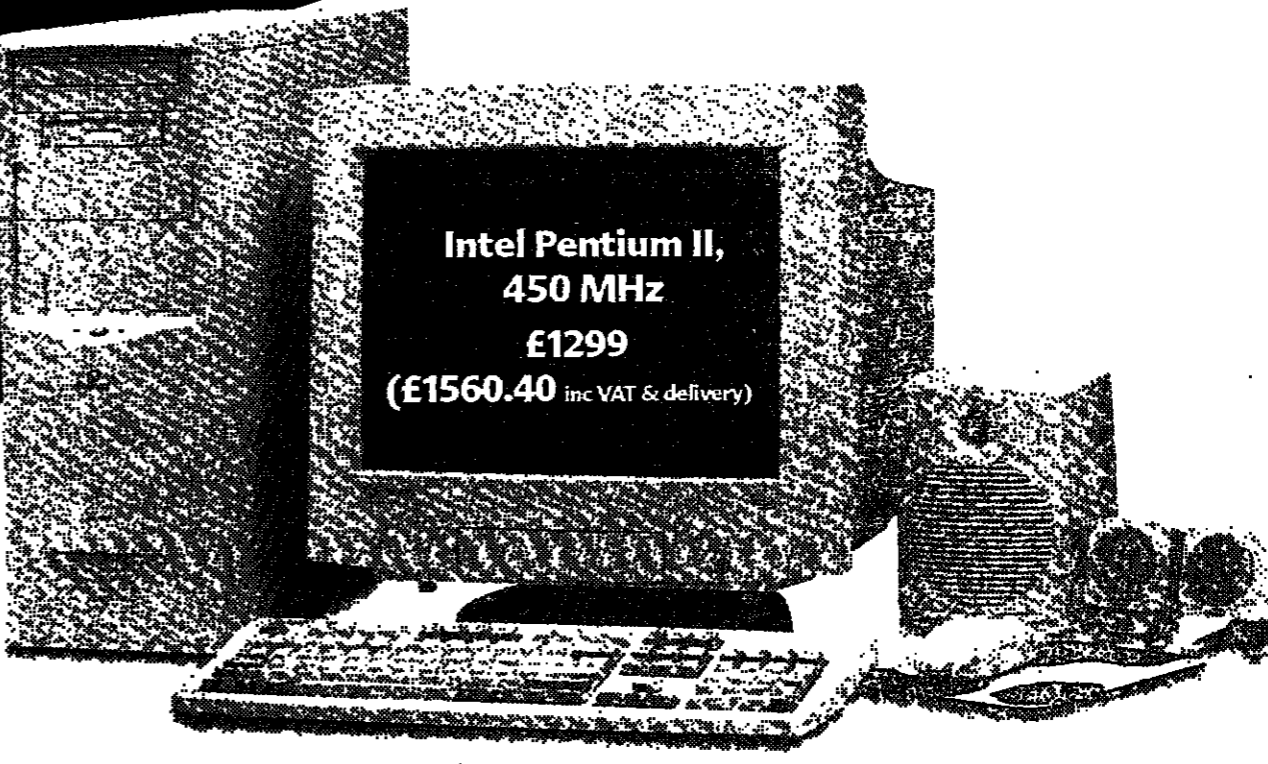
Heaney, who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1995, will be reading from his new book at London's Piccadilly Theatre at 7pm on Sunday. This will be the author's only public appearance.

By presenting a copy of this article, Times readers will receive a £5 discount on signed copies of *Opened Ground*, which are selling at £20 (hardback) and £12.99 (paperback).

Tickets cost £10 and £12, with proceeds going to Waterstone's charity of the year, The Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture. They can be obtained by telephoning 0171-369 1734 or from the Piccadilly box office in Denman Street, London SW1, which will be open from 3pm on Sunday.

Opened Ground includes several new poems as well as work from Heaney's most recent books, *Seeing Things* and *The Spirit Level*.

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Airlines call for action to ease traffic jam in sky

AIRLINES accused European governments of failing to deal with air traffic problems yesterday after it was revealed that significant delays have affected almost a third of flights this summer. Delays are now back to the worst levels seen in the 1980s, but the industry said that difficulties were likely to worsen unless politicians overcame their "complacency".

Figures released by the Association of European Airlines show a steady increase in delays this year. According to the statistics from 26 European carriers, which include British Airways, British Midland and Aer Lingus, more than 20 per cent of European flights were delayed on departure by more than 15 minutes in the first half of 1998.

The figure then rose to 29.1 per cent in June, more than double the percentage of flights delayed in June 1994, and only slightly better than the worst figure, 30.8 per cent, recorded in 1989 when huge numbers of passengers were forced to sleep overnight at the most congested British airports, such as Gatwick, Manchester and Luton.

Since June, delays have worsened progressively, and

Across Europe, one third of the flights have been delayed during summer, writes **Arthur Leathley**

Industry sources expect even worse figures for July and August, when holiday traffic increases congestion in southern Europe.

Much of the problem has been caused by rapid increases in the number of passengers, which has tripled over the past 20 years. Since 1990 air traffic has risen by 40 per cent, with much of the increase concentrated in the tightly confined air space of Northern Europe and the Mediterranean.

In spite of the increases, delays were reduced in the early 1990s as airlines and traffic control authorities worked more closely in planning timetables and routes.

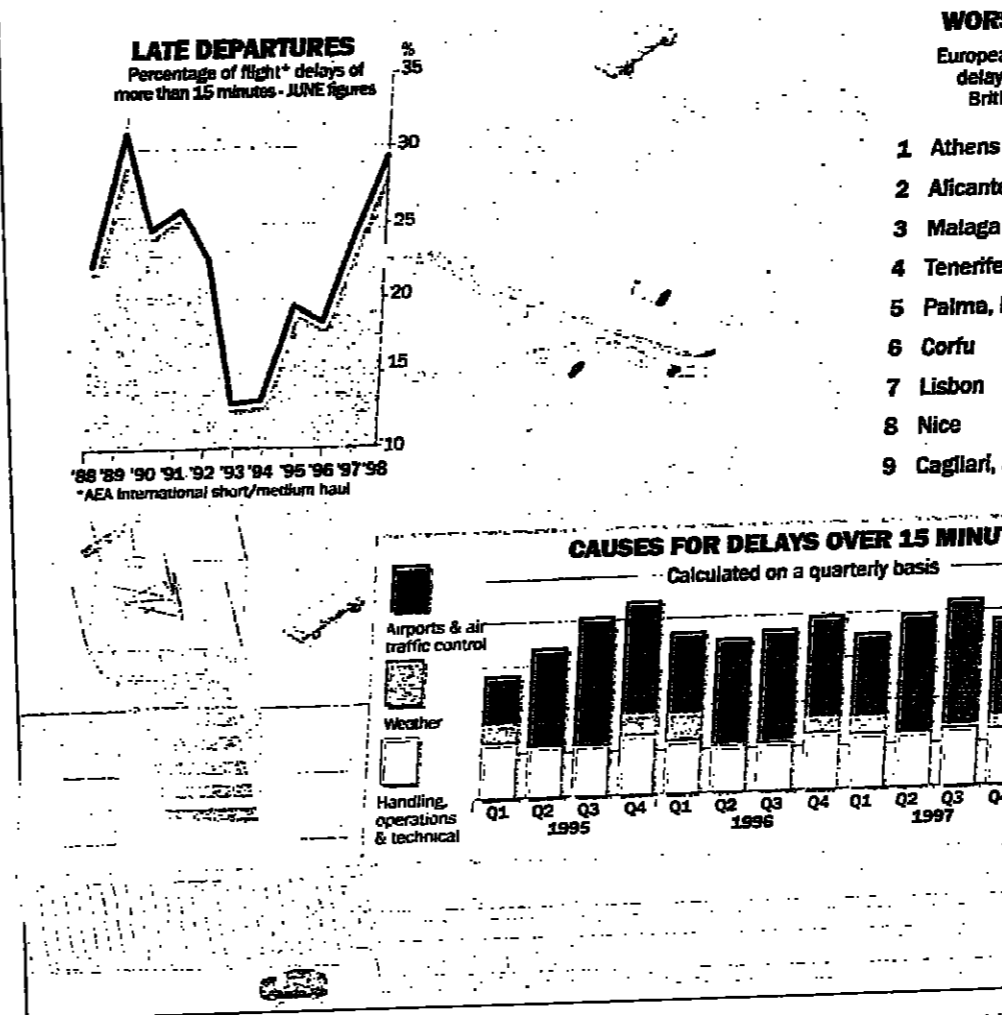
The amount of short-haul business travel has increased

dramatically over the past decade, with a huge rise in cheaper flights between European capitals. This has placed extra pressure on most capital airports across Europe, but also many provincial airports, which have been unable to expand. Milan and Nice have suffered acute problems in recent months, as have Madrid, Amsterdam, Athens and Rome.

A 9 per cent growth in European and North Atlantic passenger traffic in the past year has increased pressure on air-traffic control services across mainland Europe. In Britain, severe problems of "overloading" of air traffic control — where the number of flights exceed "comfortable" levels — have occurred in southeast England.

British problems have been exacerbated by continuing delays in moving the National Air Traffic Services, which control the busiest areas in Britain, from antiquated premises at West Drayton, near Heathrow, to a new £350 million centre at Swanwick, Hampshire. The new centre, which was originally due to open in 1996, will not start until the winter of 1999-2000 at the earliest, and prob-

HOW THE AIR DELAYS HAVE TAKEN OFF AGAIN



lems are still emerging in the new software system.

The latest figure from the Association of European Airlines underlines the industry's frustration over delays that cost carriers an estimated £1 billion a year. For more than a decade, airlines have been pressing for a simplified air traffic control system

throughout Europe, but there has been heavy opposition from countries including France and Greece to any moves to remove or weaken national sovereignty over air space.

The association releases only the average figures for all the carriers, and does not give a breakdown for each member

airline. It says that there seems to be political complacency, because the delays are no worse than in 1989, despite the large increase in air traffic.

Karl-Heinz Neumeister, its secretary general, said: "This year is turning out to be a black one for delays. We are seeing an almost exact repeat of our experiences in 1989. The

big difference is that, while the earlier situation was rightly seen as intolerable, the current political reaction seems to vary from complacency to — self-congratulation. It is time that the politicians acted to remedy this situation."

Leading article, page 17

THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION

Plans for a single European air traffic control system have progressed slowly since they were presented by the Association of European Airlines in 1989. Most countries want to retain at least partial control of their airspace, and the problem has been accentuated by vast differences in the quality of air traffic control systems. Greece is heavily criticised by pilots and air traffic controllers for its primitive system, which has caused huge problems at Athens, Corfu and Crete. European ministers have been reluctant to force the issue for fear of political problems within member states.

Reducing the amount of military airspace to allow more civilian routes is a delicate problem for the European Union. More than a third of mainland European airspace is used only by military aircraft.

Airlines have also been blamed for failing to improve efficiency and timetables. The fares war that has run throughout the 1990s has reduced airlines' ability to pay for moving aircraft onto less congested routes. Philip Martin, director-general of the Air Transport Users' Council, said airlines had to shoulder some of the blame. "British Airways has achieved substantial reductions on delays to flights at Gatwick and Heathrow. They have decided that reducing delays is part of a good service, but that does not apply to all airlines."

Police re-examine files in hunt for railway rapist

DETECTIVES on the trail of a serial rapist are to re-examine tens of thousands of crimes in an effort to see if the attacker has struck before in their area.

The rapist first struck in January 1992 in Brentwood, Essex, when he grabbed a woman from behind as she walked to her vehicle in a station car park. In March this year he attacked a woman on wasteland near South Brentwood railway station in South London.

Officers have linked the two

incidents by the way the man spoke to his victims and from matching descriptions. On each occasion he threatened the woman and then tried to reassure her. Police believe he has attacked other women in the intervening years in incidents that may have begun with robbery and escalated to rape.

In a joint investigation between British Transport Police and Essex Police, officers are building a psychological profile of the rapist and using computers to sift through the thousands of pieces of information coming in. Detective

Superintendent Graham Satchwell, from the transport police, said: "I think there is every chance we are looking for a serial rapist. There is every reason to think there are other offences this man has committed which have not been reported."

The attacker is described as white, in his late twenties or early thirties, between 5ft 6in and 5ft 11in, with short hair and clean-shaven. He has a slight London accent and is of medium to slim build.

Detective Chief Superintendent Lee Weavers, head of Essex CID, who is in overall



Computer image of the suspected serial rapist

charge of the operation, said: "I would urge anybody who has been attacked to come forward. I think there is a distinct possibility that he has committed other offences and there is a significant threat that he will reoffend."

Houses for sale at touch of a button

BUYING and selling homes could be revolutionised under proposed reforms outlined today that pave the way for electronic conveyancing in the next century.

The Law Commission, the Government's law reform body, and the Land Registry are putting forward joint proposals that would make house buying simpler, cheaper and quicker.

When electronic conveyancing takes over in the next decade or so, the buying and selling of houses will be done at the touch of a button. All properties will have to be registered in the Land Register, which is not the case at present, so that titles can be verified instantly by computer, whether for the grant of a mortgage or before the transfer of the property.

This change in conveyancing practice needs a new legal framework to enable it to happen, the two bodies say.

Secondly, present legislation on land registration is widely acknowledged to be lacking in clarity and unnecessarily complicated, they say.

Thirdly, new principles for registered land need to be established.

In their consultation paper the two bodies propose a rule-making authority to enable electronic conveyancing to be introduced. It also says there should be new rules on the acquisition of title to registered land, which would strengthen the case against squatters.

Charles Harpum, a law commissioner, said: "These proposals will affect every house buyer in the country. We want to see the legal framework in place so that conveyancing can be achieved at the touch of a button."

The proposals would make the title to registered land (which means houses as well as land) more secure and provide better protection for rights in registered land.

The commission also wants rights to land, now known as easements, restrictive covenants and options to be simplified, and the strength of the protection they give to be enhanced.

A further proposal is that the number and scope of overriding interests (interests that are binding on buyers even though they are not protected on the register) should be reduced. In addition, the rules on competing priorities of estates, rights and interests in registered land should be clearly defined.

Land Registration for the 21st Century (Law Commission, No 254, Cm 4027, Stationery Office, £22.55)

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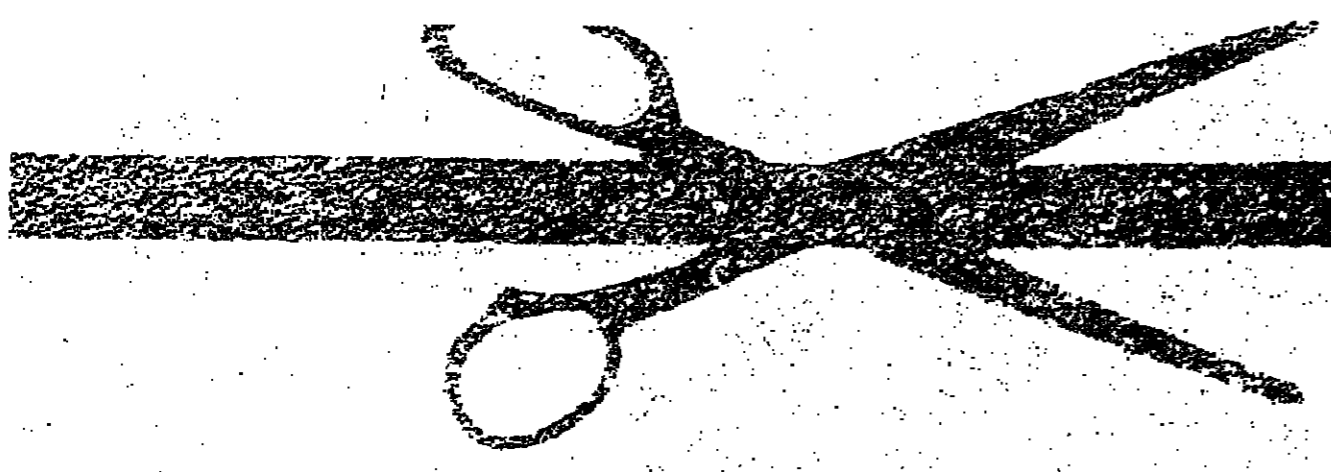
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The rural look that calms speeding drivers

Michael Horsnell on a road trial that replaces warning signs and white lines with dirt-coloured grit

MOTORISTS in rural areas can be persuaded to drive more slowly when the roads are made to look more like the country lanes they once were.

Removing the central white dividing line, taking out road warning signs and resurfacing the carriageway in a brownish grit have resulted in a significant reduction in the speed of traffic passing through a village in Norfolk.

Starston, which has a few hundred inhabitants and lies on both sides of a busy B road, is heavily used by cars and lorries as a cross-country "rat run": the common fate of many such places. In trials lasting several months, and without the imposition of a formal limit, average traffic speed was cut from 36mph to just over 31mph.

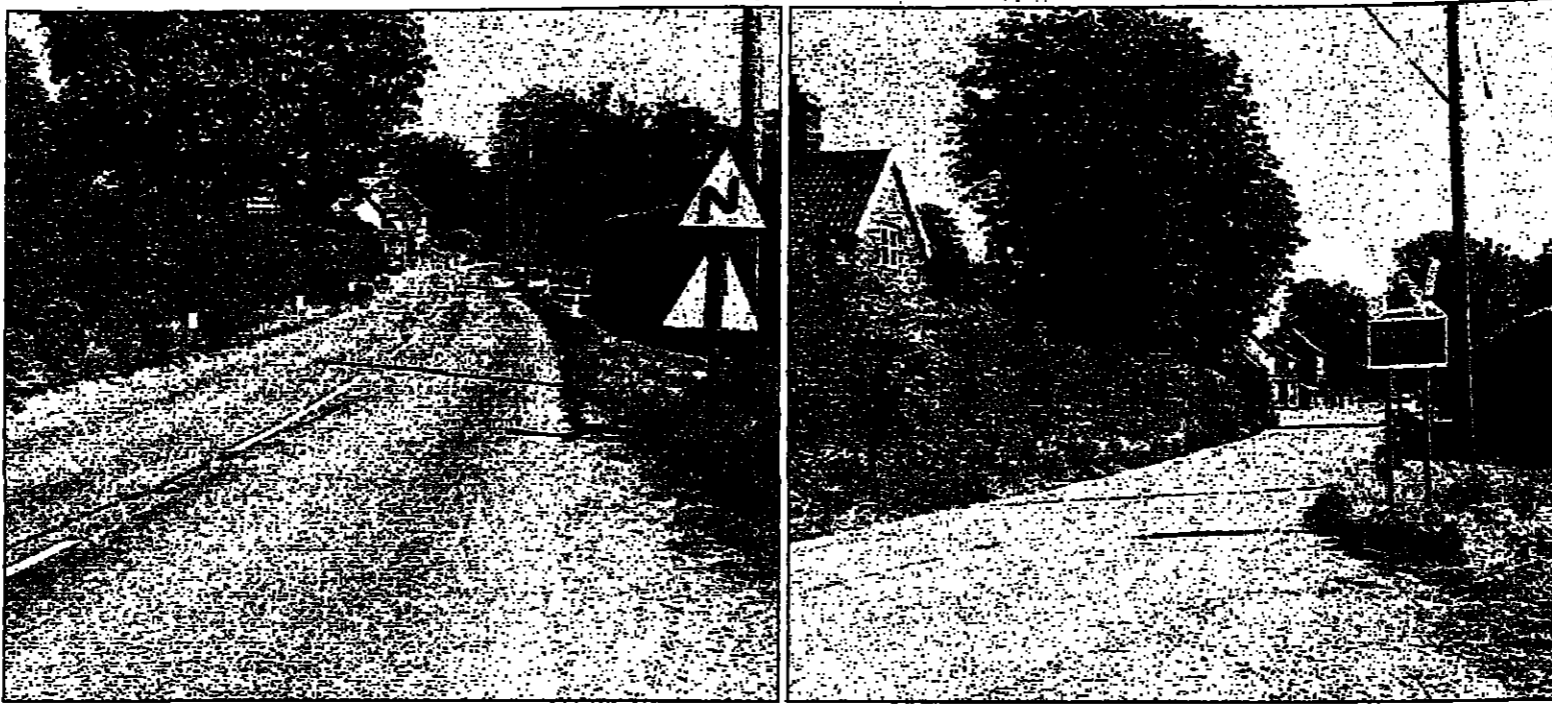
Neil Mayhew, chief road safety engineer with Norfolk County Council, believes the scheme worked by making drivers more sensitive to the world outside their vehicles.

"In effect, motorists receive visual signals which jolt them out of autopilot mode into a realisation that the road is no longer just a car way but a route through somebody else's living space," he said.

Motorists entering Starston are greeted by a place name designed by an artist who lives in the village, rather than by the standard sign. It highlights the individual character of the village by incorporating a motif of a windmill, a local feature.

Imposing a legal 30mph limit in the village would have entailed cluttering roadsides with more than 20 new roadside signs, Mr Mayhew said. Instead, it proved possible to remove 11 existing warning signs.

Mr Mayhew's scheme has so far proved too radical for the bureaucrats at county headquarters. They ordered him to put back the white line, with the result that average traffic speed immediately re-



Starston village before, left, and during the trial. The central white line was later reinstated and traffic speeds went back up to pre-trial levels

turned to its previous level. Other techniques for slowing rural traffic being tested by Mr Mayhew and his colleagues include French-style signs that flash messages to individual motorists. South Lopham, a village

between Thetford and Diss, is cut in half by the A1066, which has an average weekday traffic flow of about 6,000 vehicles. Some 16 months ago, the new interactive signs were installed at the western and eastern entrances to the vil-

lage to coincide with a reduction in the legal speed limit to 30mph from 40mph. The radar-controlled signs are triggered by any oncoming vehicles going faster than 35mph and display the vehicle's number for four seconds

to warn the driver to slow down. Subsequent monitoring has shown that the average speed of vehicles driving through the village has come down from just under 41mph to 32.5mph for eastbound traffic

and 29.5mph for westbound traffic. "This was a pretty stunning result," Mr Mayhew said. "The general experience nationally is that, when you bring the limit down from 40mph to 30mph, you do not

expect to cut average speeds by more than 2 or 3mph."

As a result of the scheme's success, half a dozen conventional "road narrows" and "slow" signs that had been cluttering the roadside in the village to little useful effect have been removed.

Comparable traffic-slowing results have been achieved with the new signs at a dangerous crossroads near the village of Felthorpe and at the approach to a bend outside the village of Felbrig, a notorious accident black spot.

The first 16 months after the sign was installed at Felbrig were accident-free, Mr Mayhew said. "On previous experience we might have expected four or five during this period. The sign then had to be removed for four months for repairs, during which time two accidents occurred. The four months since the sign was put back have again been accident-free."

Mr Mayhew, who is sharing his research data with the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, plans to be running trials with the interactive signs outside 16 villages by the end of the year.

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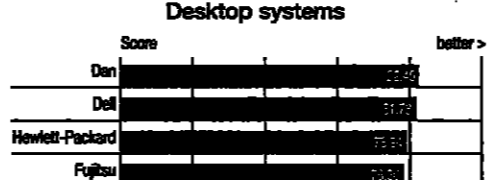
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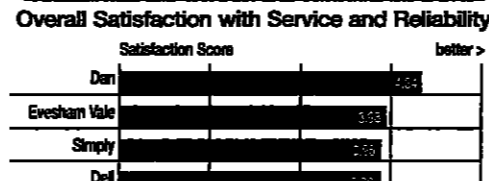
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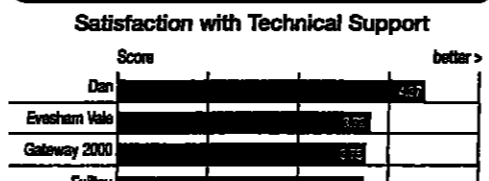
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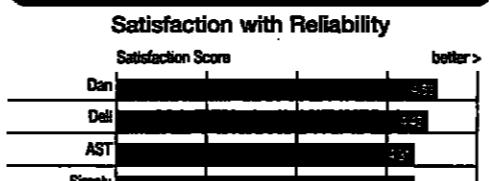
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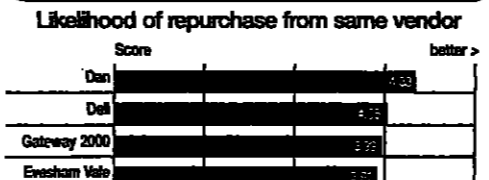
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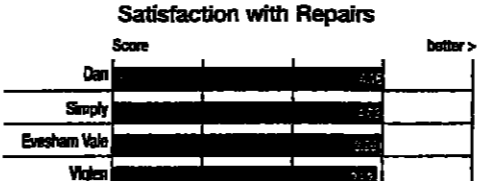
WINNER: Satisfaction with Reliability



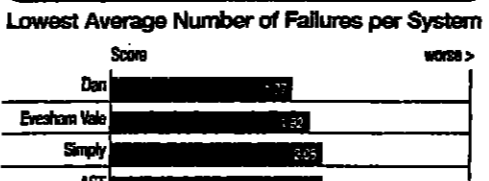
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Inquiry attacks Dounreay over safety problems

By Gillian Harris, Scotland Correspondent

A DAMNING report on health and safety at the Dounreay nuclear plant holds weak management responsible for "chronic safety problems" at the site and has ordered its operators, the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, to act immediately to make it safe for decommissioning.

The report's authors, the Health and Safety Executive and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, said there was no immediate danger, but among their 143 recommendations is a call for more effort to ensure that the plant is kept safe.

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, has called for safety procedures to be tightened after the publication of the report on problems at the Caithness site.

The three-month inquiry was ordered by the Government in June after the power supply to Dounreay's fuel cycle area, where highly enriched radioactive materials are stored, was cut off for 16 hours when a digger cut a power cable.

One of the problems the HSE identified was the absence of a comprehensive strategy for dealing with the various forms of radioactive waste at the site. "The audit team's main finding is that organisational changes made within the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority over

the last four years have so weakened the management and technical base at Dounreay that it is not in a good position to tackle what is now its principal mission — the decommissioning of the site," the report said.

"The authority needs to invest considerable effort, time and resources at Dounreay to bring it up to the standards HSE requires for continued operation of the nuclear installation, and to enable the site to be decommissioned safely and made safe for future generations."

Mr Dewar said he was concerned by the report's findings. "Although it is not possible to comment in detail at this stage, one thing is clear — Dounreay must get tough on safety. I have already made it clear that no new commercial reprocessing work will be carried out. Any reprocessing to deal with material already at site will not resume until all the points raised in this report have been dealt with."

John McKeown, chief executive of authority, said that it would publish a programme for implementing the works recommended in the report by November 30, as had been requested. "Safety management is a continuously evolving process and we are pleased that the report recognises the efforts we are making to improve the arrangements at Dounreay."

Fish farmers look to Ice Age future

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

A RELIC of the last Ice Age could help to revive the flagging fortunes of salmon farmers in Scotland.

The Arctic char, which is found in 200 land-locked lakes in Britain, tastes like a cross between salmon and trout. It is now being raised commercially by a fish farmer on the Orkney island of Hoy.

It is popular in Scandinavia and is proving a hit at a fishmongers in Kirkwall, where the fish are being sent for sale to local restaurants and hotels.

The breakthrough has been made by John Eccles, who lives in Rackwick, a former crofting community on the island. His success has put him centre-stage in a £350,000 European-funded research programme involving universities in Glasgow, Austria and Iceland, along with fish farms in five countries. The aim is to reproduce Mr Eccles' success on Hoy, so that viable Arctic char eggs can be produced elsewhere.

Arctic char were once a migratory fish like salmon, leaving rivers for the open sea before returning as adults to spawn. But when the last Ice Age retreated, char were left behind in Scottish lochs and in the Lake District.

The water at Rackwick needs to be heated for Mr Eccles to raise young salmon successfully. He said yesterday: "I was looking to diversi-



Eccles pioneered the farming of Arctic char

fy to a species that prefers colder temperatures."

An eel fisherman helped him to net char about to breed in the shallows of a Scottish loch, which were then stripped of their eggs. "I rushed back to Orkney with 5,000 eggs. It was a step into the unknown, but they had a high hatch rate and the fish grew very well," said Mr Eccles.

"They actually seem to flourish in captivity, enjoying swimming together in shoals in tanks at the fish farm." Six years of effort then went into developing a system that allows Mr Eccles to supply about 100 fish a week to the Kirkwall shop.

Billy Jolly, who runs the shop, said customers were excited about the chance to try something new. "Arctic char are plump and have a lovely pink flesh. They have a beautiful flavour, with a succulent soft texture."

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Warring deputies 'holding Russia to ransom'

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday accused the Russian parliament of holding the country to ransom over the appointment of Viktor Chernomyrdin as Prime Minister.

So far neither side seems willing to give ground over Mr Chernomyrdin's confirmation, which was firmly defeated by the Duma on Monday.

During a visit to a Moscow school on the first day of the academic year, and ahead of his talks with President Clinton, Mr Yeltsin said he would insist on Mr Chernomyrdin's

The lower house is to vote for a second time on his appointment next Monday. But Gennadi Zyuganov said his Communist Party, which dominates the legislature, would again vote against it and would do so a third time if Mr Yeltsin put him forward again.

THE DUMA

appointment: "He is my candidate, and I will insist on it [his confirmation]. Every day that is wasted means millions and millions in losses: it is a day lost for the country and for the hopes of the people," Mr Yeltsin said.

He was speaking in response to his continuing confrontation with the Duma, the lower house of the parliament.

If the Duma rejects Mr Chernomyrdin three times, Mr Yeltsin has no option but to dissolve parliament, call fresh elections within three months and, in the interim, rule the country by decree, with Mr Chernomyrdin, or anyone else he chooses, as his Prime Minister.

Mr Zyuganov said that by renominating Mr Chernomyrdin without first consulting



Accompanied by Viktor Chernomyrdin, the man at the centre of Russia's political storm, President Clinton inspects a guard of honour after his arrival in Moscow yesterday

Duma faction leaders. Mr Yeltsin had gone back on an understanding reached between his administration and Gennadi Seleznev, the Duma's Speaker. Now any further consultations would be senseless, he said.

Mr Chernomyrdin himself was last night still holding out the possibility of a deal. He told Interfax news agency that he was ready to meet any political leaders for negotiations. While still declining to give details of his proposed stabilisation plan, he said his priorities were to safeguard

people's savings, restore the currency market and improve the liquidity of banks.

He also promised to reduce taxation — a measure clearly aimed at winning support in the Duma. Mr Chernomyrdin also said he had sent a list of proposed government ministers to Mr Yeltsin, but he did not reveal any names.

Talks on Sunday between representatives of Mr Yeltsin and parliamentary leaders came very close to a deal under which Mr Yeltsin would have ceded key powers, allowing parliament the right

to vet the Cabinet, in exchange for a approval of Mr Chernomyrdin. But, at the last minute, the Communists, apparently believing they could wring even more concessions out of the President, withdrew, prompting Mr Yeltsin to say that he would not sign the deal either.

Now much of the conciliatory atmosphere that preceded Monday's vote appears to have dissipated. Mr Yeltsin, who in the past has shown no lack of appetite for confrontation, is clearly in a pugnacious mood and unless a deal can be

reached over the next few days, may withdraw all concessions proposed in recent days and challenge his opponents to risk their parliamentary seats with a third-round vote.

The Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, which groups the regional governors and city mayors, is to convene tomorrow. According to Vladimir Ryzhkov, First Deputy Speaker of the Duma and a member of Mr Chernomyrdin's Our Home is Russia party, the session will decide whether to recommend his

confirmation to the Duma. If it does so, Mr Ryzhkov believes a compromise will still be found.

In Moscow yesterday some nine million regular users of the Metro were reminded of the economic crisis when they found that the price of a single journey had jumped overnight by 50 per cent, from two roubles to three. The rise was an accurate reflection of the rouble's slide over the past two weeks: converted into sterling, the fare still amounts to only about 30p.

Prices of imported products have gone up by between 80 and 100 per cent, while domestic staples have also risen, but only by about 20 per cent, according to a survey carried out by Interfax.

Political held: According to reports here quoting the public prosecutor's office, Russian police yesterday arrested Vladimir Petrov, 44, the outgoing First Deputy Finance Minister, on suspicion of bribetaking and illegally helping a commercial bank. The reports did not name the bank involved in the alleged offence. (AFP)

Bear hug begins talks of cold comfort

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

IT LOOKED like a summit, sounded like a summit and at times the two leaders of the Cold War superpowers behaved like men who held the fate of the world in their hands.

But in the finest Russian tradition, yesterday's meeting between President Yeltsin and President Clinton was little more than a "Potemkin summit" — the diplomatic equivalent of the fake villages erected by Prince Potemkin to impress Catherine the Great.

Despite the long cavalcade of presidential limousines, the televised signing ceremony of obscure documents and the

POTEMKIN SUMMIT

clink of champagne glasses at last night's banquet in the Kremlin, the meeting was best characterised by one Russian commentator as the "summit of the unfortunates".

From the moment Mr Clinton stepped off Air Force One into a rainy autumnal morning, he was brought face to face with the dramatic crisis unfolding in Russia.

The man in the raincoat meeting him with the goose-stepping honour guard was Viktor Chernomyrdin, the acting Prime Minister, who was still recovering from the verbal onslaught he received on Monday from parliamentary deputies who threw out his nomination and any hopes of a swift end to Russia's political crisis.

The bear hug and backslap that the American leader received at the Kremlin from President Yeltsin was more in keeping with the "Bill and Boris show", as previous sum-

mits between the two men have been nicknamed.

After squeezing the ceremonial Russian welcome gift of a loaf of bread and then watching it spring back into shape, Mr Clinton looked up at his host and said: "It's amazing. Just like you."

This time, however, the Kremlin leader will need all the spring left in his ailing body to bounce back from his present crisis.

He tried his best to demonstrate that he was still a statesman, despite the steady crumbling of his authority and the continuing frenzied speculation about his early retirement.

Ironically, the most telling comments of the day came not

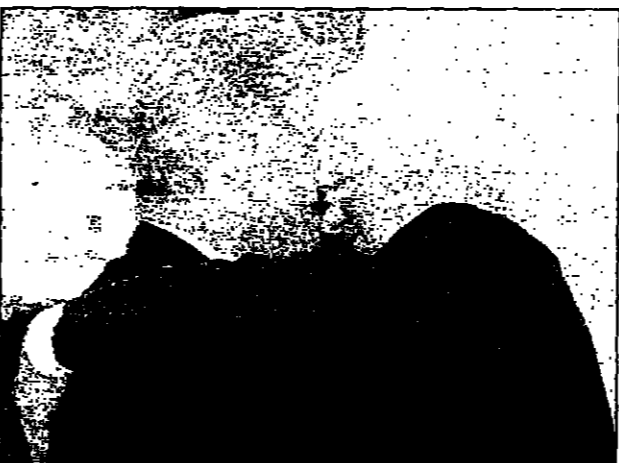
from the two heads of state, but from their wives. Naina and Hillary, who toured a women's clothing factory in Moscow.

Breaking her silence for the first time in public since her husband made his televised confession about his affair with Ms Lewinsky, Mrs Clinton said she had been "getting

along fine" — she emphasised "fine" with a weary nod.

Her hostess remarked that it was a pity that so many businesses in Russia were run by men. She paused, before adding without a hint of irony: "Men love to be in charge. I think that's bad."

Bronwen Maddox, page 16



President Yeltsin welcomes Mr Clinton yesterday in what could be their last meeting as world leaders

Moscow pundits predict state-of-emergency decree

BY ROBIN LODGE

THE PRESS

PRESIDENT YELTSIN, exasperated by the State Duma's refusal to endorse Viktor Chernomyrdin as Prime Minister, is considering using his powers to dissolve parliament and declare a state of emergency, two Russian newspapers said yesterday.

The daily *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* said Monday's vote would have monstrous consequences for the Russian economy. It said it would be better for Mr Yeltsin to dissolve the Duma straight away rather than waste more time going through three rounds of voting on Mr Chernomyrdin's candidacy — which could take another two weeks.

It said Mr Yeltsin could either dissolve the Duma and call new parliamentary elections or simply declare a state of emergency. According to the paper, talks between Mr Yeltsin and Mr Chernomyrdin after Monday's vote

— when both men expressed the view that it was impossible to deal with the Duma — pointed indirectly at the second option.

Another newspaper, *Russky Telegraph*, quoted Mr Yeltsin's press secretary, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, as saying the two men had discussed dissolution at that meeting. It pointed out that the constitution gave Mr Yeltsin the right to dissolve parliament and suggested that the Communists' decision to renege on Sunday's power-sharing deal had pushed him to the brink of doing so.

The presidential side agreed to an unprecedented compromise with the Duma's left-wing opposition, *Russky Telegraph* wrote. "The President wanted to sign the agreement between the branches of government, but the left-wing opposition did not reciprocate. This opens other ways out of the present situation."

Several newspapers believed that Mr Yeltsin was also considering other possible candidates as Prime Minister. They agreed the most likely figures would be Yegor Stroyev, the chairman of the Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, Aman Tuleyev, the moderate Communist governor of Kemerovo, or Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow.

The daily *Moskovsky Komsomolets* noted that Mr Luzhkov's own attitude appeared to have changed over recent days. While only four days ago he declared his support for Mr Chernomyrdin, the paper quoted him as saying that the former Prime Minister was discredited by former blunders. It suggests that the reason for Mr Luzhkov's change of heart could be the fact that his own name had come up as a possible head of government.

Leader of Republicans denounces President

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S affair with Monica Lewinsky has been denounced as "disturbing" by Trent Lott, leader of the Republican majority in the Senate.

The President had squandered the "moral dimension" of his presidency in scandal and deception, Mr Lott said. As a husband and father, the Senate leader was offended by the President's behaviour and by the "tragic example" he had set for young Americans.

He deplored how the presidency had been diminished in stature and credibility. He asked whether, without the necessary respect, Mr Clinton could still provide leadership.

Virtually no one in either party has rallied to Mr Clinton's support since he admitted that he had lied to the country for seven months over his relationship with Ms Lewinsky.

Last week, Richard Gephardt, leader of the Democratic minority in the House, described Mr Clinton's conduct as "reprehensible".

Mr Lott stopped short of calling for Mr Clinton's resignation, but he backed away from his earlier inference that he would settle for censuring the President. Now he promised only to reserve judgment until this month's report from Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, which will address whether Mr Clinton should be impeached on charges of obstructing justice and perjury.

Mr Lott's remarks were a harbinger of how the President's sexual liaison with the former White House trainee will dominate what promise to be a chaotic final six weeks of

the congressional calendar before members go home to campaign for the November elections.

The Starr report will be a distraction as Congress struggles to agree on tax cuts from the anticipated budget surplus, much favoured by House conservatives, and tries to pass 13 spending Bills needed to finance the federal Government. Mr Clinton has threatened to veto more than half of them if they come to his desk weighed down with proposals from the Republicans, who control Congress, that he finds offensive.

He objected, for example, to a Bill that contains Republican proposals for cutting money to the poor for home-heating fuel and summer youth jobs, both programmes supported by Democrats.

Mr Lott complained that Mr Clinton's veto threats were really an attempt to trap the Republicans into bringing the Government to a halt. Just such a shutdown was blamed

on the Republicans in 1995 and nearly cost them control of the House. Through inertia and squabbling, this Congress has already given up on several important ideas, including campaign finance reform, legislation to impose penalties on tobacco companies and healthcare measures to protect patients' rights.

Mr Clinton's proposals for childcare, new schools and the hiring of 100,000 new teachers are all cosmetic, but Democrats will try to revive them long enough to hitch them briefly to all legislation coming to a vote. But there is no way to pay for them without revenue from the abandoned tobacco Bill.

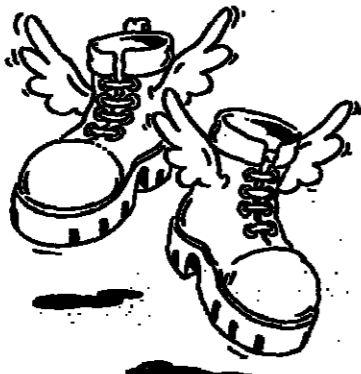
Mr Lott also emphasised that the US Government was united with the President in the face of international terrorism and other threats to national security, but he questioned whether Mr Clinton would be able to provide national and international leadership in the wake of the scandal. "That's what really matters. Will he, can he provide leadership at a very critical time internationally and domestically? And I guess only time will answer that question," he said.

Last night, Tom Daschle, Senate Democratic leader, disputed Mr Lott's comments that the presidency was diminished. Interviewed on CNN, Senator Daschle said polls showed support for Mr Clinton and said: "The presidency itself is something we have great respect for regardless of whether we agree with the President on any one of a number of different actions."



Lott says the President has set tragic example

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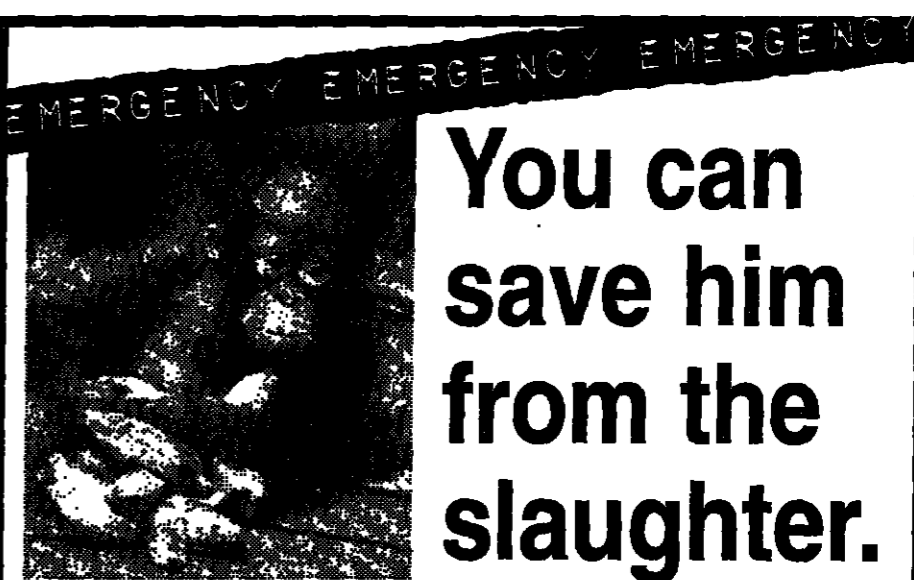


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Ethnic Albanians plead for help as Serbs surround village

FROM ANTHONY LOYD
IN GUNCAT,
KOSOVO



CORRALLED into a narrow strip of land by a tightening noose of Serb forces, more than 12,000 ethnic Albanians in Guncat, central Kosovo, yesterday awaited a fate similar to that of besieged enclaves in eastern Bosnia.

"The Serbs can come whenever they want to, as there is nothing to stop them," said Ilir Gashi, a young Albanian man, as thick coils of smoke rose in the distance.

"They should send a UN or Red Cross representative to live here and stop the Serbs from killing us, from slaughtering the people here like those in Srebrenica were slaughtered."

The refugees have good reason to be afraid. Some are survivors of the Serb attack on a civilian column fleeing Senik, little more than a mile to the west, that five days ago left 17 dead and over 50 wounded.

At the edge of a main road linking Malisevo and Duije, both ends of which are already held by Serb security forces, Guncat has been encircled by troops who, seemingly unopposed by the crumbling Kosovo Liberation Army, have moved into the surrounding hills. They have already been seen taking up position on a peak barely half a mile away from the village, and it seems only a matter of time before the attack begins. Five days ago, the first 75-year-old man and wounded three women, among them his wife.

With nowhere to run, the mantle of fear that has developed over Guncat is almost tangible. The muddy streets of the small village,

whose pre-war population was little more than 1,500, are crammed with people forced to flee any one of over 35 villages recently captured by the Serbs. All the available space in the houses is already taken up with women and children.

Inauspiciously, there are many young men, potentially of combat age, clustered in frightened knots in the main square. There are no guns or traces of uniforms in Guncat, but the Serbs are unlikely to be too discerning about whether these men were former KLA fighters or civilians if they are captured.

Sewage seeps up from overloaded pipes as new files of refugees are directed to farm buildings made of wattle and

daub, and until a few days ago inhabited by animals.

"Everyone crowded here is already tired and hungry," said Rasip Zekolli, a refugee from Surva Reka who was present during the killings at Senik. "Some people are already getting sick. We have little medicine and are worried about an epidemic."

On Sunday two UNICEF vehicles reached the village through the Serb lines. They distributed a ton of flour and medicines before departing, but there are so many people here that local authorities estimate that without re-supply, barely a week's worth of food remains. As it is, there are not enough wood stores to cook for everybody.

The sense of fear, the filth,

squalor and abject despair are further accentuated by the familiar refrain of desperate appeals for help to an outside world that is sure to ignore the people's peril.

"We beg the Americans and President Clinton to help us," said Osman Hoxha. One of Guncat's elders. He is 72, although he looks about 100. Around him cluster scores of people and for a moment his voice is measured, before something seems to break within him.

"The Serbs are killing us and burning our houses," he continues, shaking now with rage, his words tumbling into one another. "They are killing our women and children, we cannot work in our gardens, travel our roads or walk in our villages." He rips off

his skull cap and smashes his walking stick against the ground. "We beg America, we beg America, we beg America." The crowd stands in stunned silence, staring at the crackling flames and plumes of smoke across the valley.

Pristina: Serb forces attacked an ethnic Albanian village southwest of here after inhabitants ignored a warning to surrender weapons following an ambush on a Serb patrol, according to sources on both sides.

The Albanian-run Kosovo Information Centre said the attack began on Tuesday morning in the village of Tusus, about 40 miles southwest of the capital. Smoke could also be seen rising from four other villages in the area. (AP)

Euro faces baptism of fire at launch

SINKING stocks and hints of global recession are forcing European governments to scrap their assumptions about a serene launch for the single currency in 16 weeks' time, but they insist that, without the euro, the Russian crisis would be hitting the European Union even harder.

The chiefs of the new European Central Bank met in Frankfurt yesterday to take stock of an incipient meltdown that threatens the continental recovery that was supposed to offer a dream launch-pad for the euro among 11 of the 15 EU states. One upshot of the crisis could be a move by the bank to set lower euro interest rates to head off a deflationary spiral. This would mark a big break from the German-inspired doctrine that sees a fight against inflation as the bank's paramount mission.

The goal of the EU, and Germany in particular, which is by far the most exposed to the Eastern crisis, is to shore up Russia before its debacle infects the central European states now preparing for EU membership. To this end, a flurry of diplomatic activity is under way involving the EU, America and the other G7 members. "The telephone lines are burning," a spokesman for Jacques Santer, President of the Commission, said.

Market turmoil has shattered hopes of a serene debut for the single currency, Charles Bremner writes

Stripped of their forecast steady growth, the "Euroland" economies will be hard-pressed to stick to the budgetary strait-jacket imposed on them by Germany. To keep the euro-economy growing, the European Bank is expected to set lower than expected interest rates next January. But, while potentially good for France and Germany, this could be bad for such already overheated economies as

Spain and Ireland and could strain the vital harmony among the euro states.

The monetary project is so far advanced, however, and driven by such strong political will that few doubt the currency will launch on schedule. So far, the markets have failed to test this wisdom, leaving unchallenged the parities among the 11 currencies that were announced last May and which will be locked in next January. Yves Thibault de Silguy, the European Monetary Commissioner, said the euro was already acting as a "safety belt", adding: "I do not know what the situation would be now if we had not taken these decisions in May."

But some experts believe a deepening crisis could still drive the currencies apart as investors flee to German state bonds. Strong pressure on the Danish, Swedish, Greek and Norwegian currencies, all outside the euro, have reinforced the belief on the Continent that "Euroland" is proving a haven.

Theo Waigel, the German

Finance Minister, insisted on the EU's haven status yesterday. "We are an island of stability and our growth is unbroken," he said after a round of telephone calls to other finance ministers.

A hint of *Schadenfreude* can be detected in the predictions of some EU officials that further upward pressure on sterling and interest rates could force Britain into an early conversion to monetary union. "The euro is a formidable lightning conductor. One can clearly see that it is protecting us," said Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister.

He and the other optimists are drawing on the belief that the euro zone will be well-equipped to weather a global storm because the 11 states will be effectively merging into a single domestic market which depends on exports for only 10 per cent of its economic output. "Fortress Euroland" will thus be able to sustain itself as a big regional market comparable to the United States, they say. However, the brave declarations have been wearing thin as the world slide has gathered pace, focusing attention on the true extent of the euro zone's exposure. M de Silguy acknowledged the risks when he called for the special finance meeting.



De Silguy: sees euro as a safety belt



Eyeing the competition: Gerhard Schröder, left, looks across at his election rival, Helmut Kohl, at a ceremony in Bonn yesterday. Between them is President Herzog

Schröder ruffled after interview with mother

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE 84-year-old mother of Gerhard Schröder has lurched into the campaign to oust Chancellor Kohl, and the candidate is furious.

"Have we reached the stage where my own mother needs a press minder?" he erupted when shown the draft text of an interview given by his mother, a retired cleaning lady.

In fact the interview, to be published by *Bunte* magazine tomorrow, is only mildly embarrassing and she promises to perform well on two talk shows scheduled for the next fortnight.

Mothers have a way, however, of wrongfooting their adult sons and Herr Schröder was plainly uncomfortable when reporters began to seek her out in election rallies. Herr Schröder frequently quotes the example of his mother — a tough war widow who went cleaning to support the family — as a model of common sense. Politically, however, she is apt to stray on to dangerous terrain.

In the *Bunte* interview she painted a picture of her son as a brilliant, ambitious, good-hearted young boy — but a very poor loser. "He could be really unpleasant if he lost at Ludo and would say rude

words like 'crap' and say things like 'You must have cheated mum, otherwise I would have won'."

Schröder's mother, called Erica Vosseler because she remarried after the death of Gerhard's father — was rather curt about her son's Social Democratic colleague and erstwhile rival, party chairman Oskar Lafontaine. Do you like him? she was asked: "Oh, he's all right."

Then she tipped possible partners for her son, should he win the general election on September 27. If the Social Democrats were to form a grand coalition with the Christian Democrats, she would favour the choice of Volker Rühe, the current Defence Minister, as a vice-chancellor to her son. She also showed a very sophisticated nose for opinion polling trends.

"I reckon that Gerhard and the Social Democrats will get at least 4 per cent more than the Christian Democrats and the Christian Social Union."

Although most politicians wheel out their mothers at one time or another, rarely do they play such a direct role as Frau Vosseler. When the Green Party warned that Germans would have to curb their

holidays abroad to save petrol, Frau Vosseler rang up her son to steer him away from making an alliance with a party that could threaten her trips to Majorca.

Herr Schröder is evidently still very connected to his mother. He pays the rent on her apartment and fulfilled one of her dreams by sending a black Mercedes to pick her up from home when he became Prime Minister of Lower Saxony.

The candidate for the chancellorship, now 54, left school at the age of 16 to work in a porcelain shop but later returned to complete his school-leaving exams. During holidays he worked on a building site carrying sacks of cement. His first love, his mother reveals in the interview, was a girl who played the organ at the local church. She still calls up Frau Vosseler.

Herr Schröder recently married for the fourth time, and a survey of women conducted by the German issue of *Playboy* showed that 41 per cent were certain that he would again embark on an adulterous affair. "My German husband would not do that now," said his mother. "Doris [his wife] is a real sweetie."

Wolves and lynxes return to the Alps in Italy

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

WOLVES and lynxes are returning to the Italian Alps in large numbers after an absence of more than a century, according to the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps.

In its annual report, issued in Turin, the Commission confirmed the reappearance in the Alps of brown bears, which last year were reported to have returned to the region for the first time in 130 years. "The great Alpine predators are back," the report said. The revival of mountain wildlife was in spite of hunting, increased human settlement and "the erosion of the animals' natural habitat through deforestation."

The last recorded Alpine wolves were hunted down and killed in Piedmont towards the end of the last century. But a spokesman for the Italian branch of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) said bears and wolves were crossing into Italy from neighbouring Slovenia where they had managed to survive. A mountain ranger in the Italian Dolomites recently reported seeing two bears approach his hut. "They were timid and ran off," he said. "Bears are not aggressive and hardly ever attack people unless provoked."

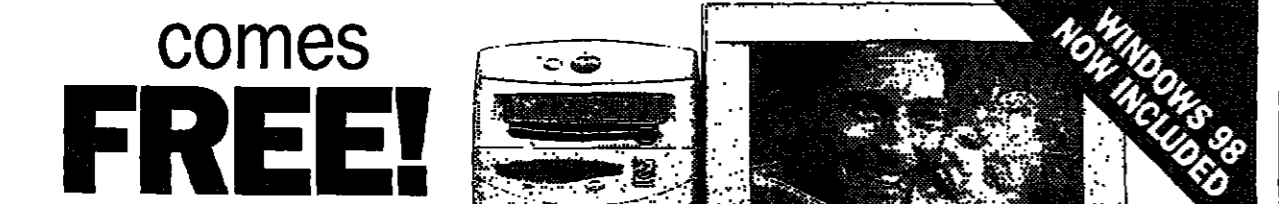
Farmers and shepherds said they were concerned about the danger posed to livestock by wolves and lynxes, which prey on sheep and goats as well as deer and wild boar. Lynxes were wiped out in the Alps in the last century, but are believed to have migrated back to Italy from the Carpathian mountains of Eastern Europe.

Wolves and bears are increasingly common in the Maritime Alps, and in the Apennine ranges in Tuscany, Emilia and Liguria. Wolves have even been spotted near Rome, according to Luigi Botani, a zoologist at La Sapienza University in Rome. He said wolves — once venerated because of the legend that a she-wolf suckled Romulus and Remus, the city's founders — were "slowly repopulating Lazio" and had been reported recently in the hills around Tivoli, about 13 miles from Rome.



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Marketing men try to boost Dachau's image

BY ROGER BOYES

DACHAU, the site of Nazi Germany's first concentration camp, is trying to brush up its image with the help of a top marketing company.

The move is part of a trend in towns adjoining former death camps — from Auschwitz to Buchenwald — to make themselves more attractive to visitors and profit from their presence.

About 800,000 people a year travel by subway from the centre of Munich to nearby Dachau, yet, laments Kurt Pillar, the new mayor, very few spend money there.

"No one is really in the mood to bite into a sandwich after visiting the concentration camp," admits Uta Wüst, who works for the MCG consulting

company on Dachau's image. Dachau T-shirts lie unsold in local shops and companies stay away.

The Munich branch of the Goethe Institute — the German equivalent of the British Council — has mail delivered to its rear entrance to disguise the fact that the office is on Dachau Strasse. Mothers prefer to give birth in Munich.

Almost 32,000 people died in the camp, which was set up in Spring 1933 as a prison for political opponents, including Communists and Jews.

Herr Pillar still hopes to attract a Coca Cola factory to the town. A more realistic plan is a poster campaign in which smiling inhabitants declare: "I'm from Dachau."

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Belgium holds bribes 'trial of the century'

WILLY CLAES, the former chief of Nato, enters the dock today along with nine other former Belgian ministers and party officials and the head of the Dassault aerospace firm in a Brussels trial that is expected to expose corruption at the heart of the Belgian political system.

Dubbed the "trial of the century", the two-month hearing into alleged kickbacks on aerospace contracts is seen as Belgium's version of the judicial purges that have struck the old political elites of France and Spain.

The case, which was sparked by the murder in 1991 of a former deputy prime minister, is also a test of reforms to Belgium's judicial system after the crisis over the alleged paedophile murders of Marc Dutroux.

The Dutroux scandal, in 1996, was seen as a symptom of institutional rot which discredited the political establishment.

Although few revelations are expected, the spectacular trial is an embarrassment to the administration of Jean-Luc Dehaene, the centre-right

Murder led to corruption case in Brussels, writes Charles Bremner

Prime Minister, nine months ahead of general elections. Most of the accused are members of the two Socialist parties, which are part of his coalition Government. However, with most of the evidence already public, it would take spectacular revelations, possibly involving the still unsolved murder case, to spark a new political crisis, commentators say.

Mr Claes, 59, a long-serving former foreign and economics minister who was forced to step down from his position as Nato Secretary-General in 1995, faces a possible three-year prison term, along with nine colleagues from the twin Flemish and French-speaking Socialist parties, for accepting nearly £2 million from

Dassault and Agusta, the Italian helicopter company, in the late 1980s after they were awarded lucrative contracts for 46 A-106 helicopters and to refit electronics in Belgian F-16 fighter planes.

Serge Dassault, 73, and a company official, face the prospect of lesser terms if they are found guilty of paying the money to the Socialist parties in return for securing the government contracts. A key defendant, Raffaello Teti, the former head of Agusta, died last week, aged 72.

The accused, who are not charged with personal enrichment, all deny wrongdoing in a case that springs from a system of party financing that was widely acknowledged to have been corrupt. Belgium banned the corporate funding of political parties in 1993.

Investigating judges began unearthing evidence of bribes first from Agusta and then Dassault in 1991, when they were investigating the murder of Andre Cools, the deputy prime minister, who was shot in a Mafia-style "hit" as he was leaving the flat of his mistress in Liege.

According to rumour, Cools had threatened to expose party corruption.

With the aid of extensive media leaks, the prosecutors pursued the case in the face of fierce resistance from Belgium's political elite. Ministers were forced to resign in the face of mounting evidence of funds being channelled into party coffers through banks in Luxembourg and Switzerland and bogus corporations. The scandal also claimed the life of General Jacques Lefebvre, a former Air Force chief of staff, who committed suicide in a Brussels hotel in 1995.

Analysts are reluctant to predict the impact the trial could have on Belgium's other main parties, which have so far been largely untouched by the corruption investigation. But politicians are nervous that ambitious prosecutors might now turn their attentions to the funding of other groups.



Willy Claes at a Nato meeting in 1995, a week before he resigned. He could face three years in prison



A woman covers her face as she enters a prison gymnasium converted into a court to try 138 people accused of having links with Algeria's Armed Islamic Group. Some of the defendants have been in custody for four years

Lawyers protest as terror suspects face mass hearing in French gym

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

AMID a storm of complaint over the way the prosecution has been handled, the trial began outside Paris yesterday of 138 terror suspects of aiding Algerian Islamic terrorists.

The accused are charged with being members of, or providing support for, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most militant of the organisations trying to overthrow the military-backed Government in Algeria. They were all arrested in the Paris region between 1994 and 1996.

A prison gymnasium in the southern suburb of Fleury-Merogis has been converted into a temporary court to accommodate the trial, the largest of its kind ever held in France. The accused, many of whom are also being prosecuted

under immigration laws, all deny being members of a terrorist group or of aiding the Islamic rebels. If found guilty, they face up to ten years in prison.

Defence lawyers claim the mass trial is unfair. Some of the accused have been in custody for four years.

GIA bombings in Paris in 1995 killed eight people and, while none of the defendants has been charged with acts of terrorism, their lawyers claim prosecutors are conducting a show trial. "They have opted for a spectacle at the expense of the rights of the defence," said Pierre Haik, a lawyer for Muhammad Chalabi, allegedly one of the principal organisers of the network, who is charged with collecting money and arms for the GIA.

When described in court as "Algerian", M Chalabi, 43, yesterday interrupted proceedings to insist that he was of "Muslim nationality", adding: "I have nothing to do with the military junta. They are Algerians. I am a Muslim."

The so-called "Chalabi Network" is accused of arms trafficking and providing support for the Algerian terrorists. Muhammad Kerouche, another alleged ringleader of the network, was extradited from Britain last December.

More than 40 defence lawyers have signed a protest claiming that their clients' rights have been infringed, and the Paris Bar has expressed concerns over the legal propriety of the mass trial, expected to last at least two months.

Weizman calls for Israeli election

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

EZER WEIZMAN, the Israeli President, provoked a furor yesterday by spearheading a new campaign to force an early general election two years before the scheduled date of 2000.

An aide to Binyamin Netanyahu, the right-wing Prime Minister, accused the popular President of colluding with the Opposition to bring forward the poll after Mr Weizman held talks with Ehud Barak, leader of the main Opposition Labour Party.

"The President is acting openly together with the Opposition, to overthrow the Netanyahu Government," the aide said in advance of a key meeting today of a Knesset committee to discuss the future of a Bill to annual parliament. It unexpectedly passed its preliminary reading as the legislature rose for its summer vacation.

Mr Weizman defended his meeting with Mr Barak. He is to consult many others from the ruling coalition and Opposition in coming days. "I initiated this meeting," he said. "There is a Knesset decision for early elections."

Government officials blamed election jitters as one reason why Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, this week rejected an offer by Israel to withdraw troops from 13 per cent more of the West Bank.

Aides to Mr Weizman said he had decided to press for an early poll because of the growth in unemployment, labour unrest and the impasse in the peace negotiations, which he fears will spark a new Middle East war.

The President's involvement in the Opposition's bid for early elections provoked angry reactions from the ruling Likud Party. Yosef Lapid, one of Israel's leading columnists, wrote in *Maariv* that Mr Weizman's actions amounted to "a crude intervention in the political process".

Mr Barak said: "The Government has lost its moral authority to rule in the light of the social crisis, the mired diplomatic process and the rifts it is causing within the Israeli nation." Mr Netanyahu rules with a slim majority of 61-59.

Missile test angers Japan

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

AN OUTRAGED Japan announced last night it would break off diplomatic talks with North Korea and refuse to give food aid to the Stalinist state after Pyongyang test-launched a long-range missile over Japanese territory.

The latest-generation missile, which officials said contained three separate stages, was launched on Monday. The final stage landed in the Pacific Ocean after flying over northern Japan, demonstrating North Korea's ability to strike at any Japanese city.

The Defence Agency sent ships to the area in hopes of recovering debris to give scientists a better idea of the missile's capability. "The pub-

lic has a high degree of anxiety and I am extremely concerned," Keizo Obuchi, the Prime Minister, was quoted as saying.

"If the firing was intentional, it's quite fair to say that a war could have broken out," Yoshiro Mori, secretary-general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, said.

After Mr Obuchi met senior Cabinet officials, the Government said Japan would refuse any food aid requests to help the North Koreans after three years of drought and floods had created widespread shortages. It also would suspend aid to help North Korea to develop energy supplies and end talks aimed at normalising diplomatic relations.

"We had been prepared to engage in talks to normalise bilateral relations unconditionally but we will change this policy," the Government said in a statement. "Depending on future developments, the Government is ready to consider further measures."

South Korean Defence Ministry officials said in Seoul the missile was a Daepodong, a newer version of the medium-range Rodong 1, which was test launched in 1993, with a range of 1,200 miles.

Cheon Yong Taek, the Defence Minister, and Fukushima Nukaga, Japan's Defence Agency chief, agreed in Tokyo last night that the two nations would jointly investigate North Korea's weapons programme.

Leading article, page 17

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ski plunge jet crew on new charge

Washington: Extra charges of obstruction of justice have been brought against the pilot and navigator of a US Marine Corps jet that severed a ski-lift cable in the Italian Alps last February, sending 20 skiers in a gondola to their deaths (Jan Brodie writes).

Richard Ashby, 31, the pilot, and Joseph Schweitzer, 30, the navigator, have now been accused of hiding or destroying a videotape apparently made during the flight, the Marines said yesterday.

Gulf gas report

Washington: There is no evidence for the theory that mysteriously ill American soldiers who fought in the Gulf War were exposed to nerve gas or chemical weapons, a Senate committee concluded. (AP)

One Nation gain

Sydney: A surge in support for Australia's One Nation Party is jeopardising the Government's re-election chances and could give Pauline Hanson the balance of power, a poll in *The Australian* suggested.

Fresh Aids fear

Paris: French researchers have found a new strain of the Aids virus that may not be detectable in routine screening. It was discovered in a woman from Cameroon, who has since died. (AFP)

Population rise

Paris: The world population growth has slowed, but it will pass the six-billion mark in June with the largest generation of young people heading into their childbearing years, a UN report says. (AFP)

Rex rolls over

Los Angeles: Rex, the first dog during the presidency of Ronald Reagan, has died aged 13. A fixture of the Administration, Rex will be buried at the Reagans' former ranch outside Santa Barbara. (AP)

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All right, Marilyn, be sexy, said Olivier

In the second extract from her book *Barbara Leaming* describes Monroe's stormy relationship with Olivier



ARTHUR MILLER AND MARILYN MONROE. AN ILL-FATED LOVE MATCH

Friday, June 22, started badly. Miller's appearance before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) had not gone well. "Arthur Miller Admits Helping Communist Front Groups in '40s," declared that morning's *New York Times*. The message wasn't that Miller had bravely refused to name names; it was that he had a Communist past. Miller had come across as long-winded and not very likeable. At best he had been boring, at worst pompous and self-absorbed. What sympathetic coverage there was concerned Miller's plan to marry Marilyn Monroe sometime before July 13.

That something had gone very wrong the previous day became clear when Marilyn returned to her apartment. Photographers accosted her as she tried to slip in the service entrance. "Leave me alone, boys. I'm a mess," she pleaded.

Ignoring her protests — at one point she put a hand in front of her face — the men snapped away. Shocked and upset, she rushed inside and went up in a service elevator. The incident had been a frightening reminder of what could happen to her image if her association with Miller caused the press to turn on her. The

next day's papers were sure to run the unflattering pictures. Meanwhile, Francis Walter, the chairman of the HUAC, told reporters that Miller would almost certainly be cited for contempt. What did that mean for Miller's passport application? Did the HUAC really plan to interfere with his honeymoon?

"I don't suppose there are too many places in this country where he wouldn't enjoy a honeymoon with Marilyn Monroe," Walter declared.

"Without his passport?" asked a reporter.

"Without his passport," the chairman pointedly replied.

The implication was clear. Miller would not be permitted to accompany Marilyn to England, where she was to face what she imagined to be the greatest challenge of her career: a co-starring role with Laurence Olivier in *The Prince and the Showgirl*.

In the event, the HUAC resolution session was not what anyone in

Miller's camp had anticipated. Initially, the news seemed good. The HUAC had voted unanimously to wait ten days before deciding on a contempt citation. But this was just a breather for Miller to change his mind about naming names. He had until July 7, six days before the scheduled departure for England.

Reporters had begun to assemble in anticipation of the statement Miller had prom-

ised to make that afternoon. As many as 400 gathered outside Miller's farmhouse in the rapidly escalating heat.

Eager "to stop all the publicity", Miller decided to get married immediately. It was a way of seizing control, the situation having got monstrously out of hand. Believing that once the formalities were over the circus would end, he arranged for the ceremony to take place at the Westchester County Court House in White Plains, New York.

Miller had ordered a ring from Carlier but it wasn't ready, so he borrowed a wedding band for the ceremony. Marilyn wore a short-sleeved sweater, Miller a blue blazer over his V-neck sweater and white shirt.

Judge Robinowitz pronounced Arthur Miller and Marilyn Monroe man and wife at 7:21pm. Champagne was produced, the exhausted couple toasting each other in front of a shelf of law books in the judge's chamber. There remained

the question of Miller's passport. At the last minute his lawyer struck a deal with the State Department. If Miller signed an affidavit promising to return in the event of a contempt trial, he would be issued a passport valid for six months.

Arriving in London, Marilyn was hardly in an ideal frame of mind to begin rehearsals on July 30. Olivier had been at work for three quarters of an hour when she arrived. Her lateness was the first strike against her. Her unkempt appearance and withdrawn manner were the second. Olivier did his best to stay calm. He saw her appearance as an expression of disdain for the very idea of rehearsal.

But it was when filming began that Olivier made his big mistake. As director as well as co-star, it was up to him to get the best from Marilyn. He tried the jokey approach: "All right, Marilyn, be sexy."

The remark misfired badly. Marilyn, indignant, ran off the set. Olivier's words may have been ill-chosen but all he had been asking her to do was to become "Marilyn". His remark had been nothing less than an acknowledgement that, as an actress, she knew exactly what she was doing. Marilyn took the words to mean that Olivier had never thought of her as an actress and never would.

Olivier seems not to have realised quite what had happened but the incident doomed their working relationship. From then on she abandoned all belief in the transforming power of a role she had worked hard to make her own. Whatever she might have hoped, it was clear that her association with "the greatest actor alive" was not going to change her life. She felt like a fool for ever having imagined that Olivier could take her seriously. Her anger at herself turned outward: after this Marilyn not only distrusted Olivier, she actively hated him.

More than ever Marilyn looked forward to Miller's visits to the set. Her eyes would brighten when she spotted her husband. No matter what she was doing, she would rush into his arms and wrap herself around him. He was her protector. He was there to get her through all this. She clung to him as if for dear life. Olivier might have been about to film a scene but he would look on helplessly as the lovebirds disappeared to Marilyn's dressing room, usually for about ten minutes. After that, it was said, Marilyn would return to the set visibly refreshed.

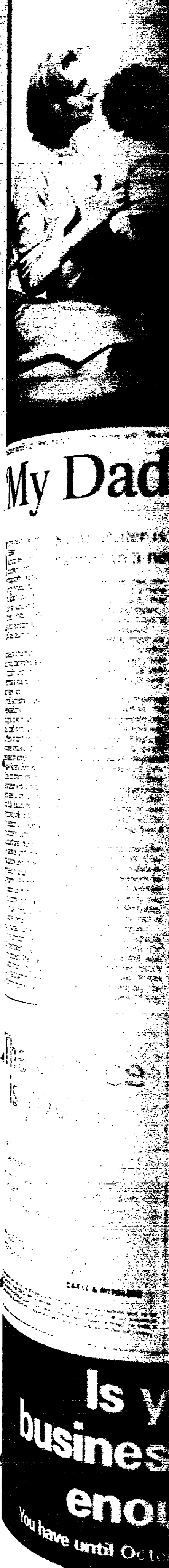
But at home, night after night, it was a different story. Marilyn vented her fury, constantly screaming about Oliv-



The civil wedding was followed by a religious one



The Prince and the Showgirl: off screen there was no love lost between the two stars



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SEPTEMBER 2 1998
NHS offers fast, fair settlements for Bristol child deaths



The Potter family in 1966. Sarah fourth from left. "We were a very open family ... we were brought up to say what we thought. Tensions were exploded and then gone," she says

'My Dad was not Dirty Den'

Shortly before he died, Dennis Potter warned his younger daughter about the perils of biography. Remember, it can go wrong, he told her. "Dad didn't really want one. There's no secret to that," says Sarah Potter, who worked as his secretary for 12 years until his death in June, 1994.

Nevertheless, a posthumous biography was inevitable, and Potter's family and friends were keen that it should reflect the man they knew: funny, ironic, loyal, sometimes spiky but never vindictive. "I thought, if we do an official one, and we're all involved, then it can't go that badly wrong, because they'll see what kind of family we've been," says Sarah. Her elder sister Jane, an artist, and her younger brother Rob, a house renovator, had a say; as did his agent Judy Daish, but Sarah feels responsible for the decision to authorise a biography by Humphrey Carpenter. "My underlying regret is that the balance isn't there. The book is lazy and shabby. It doesn't seek to analyse the work properly. Humphrey was too caught up in chasing sensational tidbits that would sit nicely in the serialisation and sell a lot of copies." She also blames Carpenter for what now appears to have been an orchestrated series of leaks to newspapers. These began in March, when stories appeared alleging that her father had visited more than 100 pros-

Sarah Potter is outraged at the lecherous image of her father painted in a new biography. Interview by Grace Bradberry

titutes, and that he had persuaded a writer named Caroline Seebohm so obsessively that she fled to the United States. "I told Humphrey I felt it was being overplayed — where was it coming from? He said: 'Oh, it's Ken.' — a reference to Ken Trodd, Potter's producer, who supplied Carpenter with some of the more salacious stories. It is a wiser, less trusting woman who sits across the kitchen table of her prettily decorated cottage in Cheltenham. Sarah, 37, a former England cricketer, now writes a sports column for this paper and also helps to run her father's production company, Whistling Gypsy. Despite suggestions that Potter dominated his children, Sarah is adamant they did not live in his shadow. She has never married, but has a long-term boyfriend. But even the most hard-bitten daughter would be troubled by the two most sensational passages of Carpenter's biography, which concentrate on his relationship with two women — Caroline Seebohm, and Gina Bellman, the star of the 1989 drama *Blackeyes*. Sarah has little sympathy for Seebohm — "I think she must be pretty bigoted and pretty vain" — but Bellman's story is more troubling. It was *Blackeyes* that prompted the tabloids to label Potter "Dirty

Den", a sobriquet he loathed. "That was the first time anything had really got to Dad," says Sarah. Nevertheless, he admitted to interviewers that he was in love with his star. Gina Bellman now says she was exploited by Potter, and that they had an unconsummated romance. "There was a part of him that was a dirty old man," she told Carpenter. "At least she has the decency to say it wasn't a physical relationship," says Sarah. "She's obviously damaged through it; I feel sorry about that, but I think her level of bitterness is misplaced. It's probably more to do with the fact that she didn't go on to do other things professionally." As for the prostitute: "I think it's utter tosh. It would be so far removed from the man I knew. You have to bear in mind Dad's capacity for talking things up, for fantasising." From the age of 27, Potter was ravaged by psoriatic arthritis, a painful and debilitating disease. Sarah knew that the drugs used to treat the illness caused impotency. "We were a very open family, so it was talked about." She confessed this to Carpenter so he would understand that some of the sexual affairs couldn't have happened. The medical information was added to the biography. "It ended up almost like I was stripping my father further of any shard of dignity."

Sarah believes that her father's relations with women have been misunderstood. Her mother Margaret's response to his declaration of love for Gina Bellman was blunt — "Don't be such a silly bugger." "This is the crux of it," says Sarah. "He was a dreaming romantic rather than a dirty old man. He'd get sentimental about things. I know how proper he was with the women that worked for him." One of these was Judy Daish, who is livid at Carpenter's suggestion that she had an affair with Potter. "Dad loved Judy, but he wasn't in love with her. We had Christmas holidays together. I said to Humphrey: 'Do you seriously think that my mother would have had Judy in the house ...?' Just no way." Carpenter also seems to have accepted Trodd's view that Potter married his childhood sweetheart as "one way of not dealing with the difficulties of being a scholarship boy

at Oxford". "That was very nasty of Ken," says Sarah. "Dad was drawn to Mum because she was all the things that he wasn't and wanted to be. She had warmth and was socially at ease with people, things that Dad never really mastered. She did have to put up with a lot — Dad was a difficult man. Mum was very good with him. Sometimes he would show off, and she would quietly tell him to calm himself down." She does not know if he had any sexual affairs. "Certainly, the candidates that have been pushed forward, they're not the ones. I'm not saying he was beyond that by any means; it may have been the case — but I would be surprised."



Sarah Potter: "Utter tosh"

For much of Sarah's childhood, Potter was reclusive. "If somebody would knock on the door, he would bolt upstairs." Then, in 1976, a new drug gave him a much better quality of life. "After that Mum was anxious he would just up and go. Dad wanted to go to London and put himself about with his work, but Mum didn't want to leave Ross-on-Wye. He said: 'Do you really think that because I'm better I'm going to suddenly walk out through the door?' I think he knew that he would probably not be a very nice person if he didn't have Mum." Sarah believes that, in the 1960s, he was "definitely fixated with Caroline Seebohm", the glamorous daughter of a banker who had been his contemporary at Oxford. "But that was illness, breakdown. The marriage survived because Mum gave Dad the strength to realise he could live through it." When Sarah was ten, her father's illness became so bad that he spent six months in hospital. "We really thought he

was terrible for Dad, going into that room, knowing it was the last time. Mum had been asleep all night, but as soon as Dad walked in she opened her eyes. So they had that brief space together." It is dealing with her mother's death that has been hardest for Sarah. Two years ago she went for counselling — something her father had suggested she might need. She has now overcome her depression. "Dad used to say: 'You'd be amazed at how strong the human spirit can be.'"

"We were brought up to say what we thought. It just wasn't a prim and proper house where you would go away with seething contempt. Tensions were exploded and then gone."

Potter was determined that his children should not inherit his sexual hang-ups. "He was probably more grounded as a man. He said to me once: 'It's not something that you or Jane should get up about. You'll know. Be caring, be sensible. It's just a bodily function. Don't expect anything else.'"

Potter was good at sorting out his children's problems. Sadly, Sarah was never to hear his advice on what could be the most momentous decision of her life. She has no desire to have children but Jane, 18 months older, is desperate for a baby. If IVF treatment fails, Sarah intends to act as a surrogate mother. "I talked to Mum and Dad about it several years ago. Mum was pleased and said she'd be there at the birth. Dad said: 'Well, I think it would be an amazing thing to do. I can't say whether it's right or wrong. I think I'd like to take some advice on it.' But then other things happened ..."

Trapped in a Web of misery

Jon Ashworth on cyber-sickness

Hooked on the Net? Surfing anorak welded to your chair? As if this scenario were not tragic enough, gloomy research seeping out of America warns us that surfing the Internet induces depression and loneliness. Too much time swapping e-mails and lingering in Internet chat rooms might well finish you off socially, according to the findings of a two-year study to be published this week in the journal *American Psychologist*. Interaction with friends and family declined in direct correlation to time spent online, while loneliness and depression increased. One researcher likened on-screen so-

phisticated to "spending all your life at a cocktail party". About seven million people in Britain have access to the Internet, and an increasing number appear to be succumbing to this malady. It takes its cue from America, where five million computer nerds — one in nine Internet users — are considered to be suffering from Internet Addiction Syndrome (IAD). Marriages break down, users fall deeply into debt, and work or study suffers — largely because those concerned have spent all night browsing and find it hard to keep awake. Symptoms include lying to family or colleagues about the amount of time spent on the Internet; restlessness, irritability and anxiety when not at the computer; and repeated but unsuccessful attempts to cut down on the time involved. Spending more than five hours a day online is generally considered a danger sign. It may not be long before Internet addicts are attending "drying out" centres to rediscover some basic social skills — holding a normal conversation, for instance. Kimberly

Marriages break up, users fall into debt and work suffers

Young, a psychologist at the University of Pittsburgh and the author of *Caught in the Net*, has deemed the Internet to be as addictive as drugs, alcohol or gambling, saying: "In Cyberspace, a shy person can become outgoing, a non-sexual person can be sexual, a non-assertive person can be forceful or an aloof person can be gregarious." The Internet Addiction Service, run by Maressa Hecht Orzack, a psychologist at Harvard University's McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts, has received hundreds of requests for help. One letter read: "We got divorced one year after we got the computer. My wife was in chat rooms all the time and ignored our young daughter." She spent hundreds of dollars on phone bills and had an affair online that turned into a real affair. In one such case, a 40-year-old housewife from Bolton abandoned her husband and three children and eloped with a recovering alcoholic from Texas with whom she had struck up an online friendship. She later recalled: "We exchanged photos and Robert e-mailed me, saying that he sensed I was a passionate, sexual woman. Within the month we were in love. Believe me, you can make love via a computer." Her paramour flew to Britain, and later e-mailed his wife to tell her that their marriage was over. Andre Levy, a London-based computer expert, confirms the unhealthy nature of immersing oneself in a virtual world. "It is more of an issue in the US, where many local providers offer free calls," he says. "People who use the Internet to that extent are living their lives in a substitute world, one in which they have no physical interaction."

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THE QUEEN'S REWARD FOR BUSINESS

How the mighty have foundered

Bronwen Maddox on the end of an era for US supremacy

Hollywood could not have scripted a crueler climax. As the scorned and isolated President Clinton flies out to Moscow, the Dow Jones industrial average, the digital noon scoreboard of his presidency, falls by the second-largest number of points in its 102-year history. The nation is indignant at the rude reminder that it is vulnerable to financial risk. Monica Lewinsky is the only clear winner, said to be considering an offer of \$10 million for her account of the greatest mistake of Mr Clinton's life.

Whether she signs up or not, the Clinton years may be remembered more for that scandal than for their astounding prosperity. But the economic strength has been no illusion. Mr Clinton deserves credit, even if less than he claims. The plunge in the Dow wiped out the year's gains but has not obliterated the results of eight years of growth and low inflation.

But the markets' collapse, Russia's descent into turmoil, and Mr Clinton's loss of credibility, mark the end of an era of confidence in American policy.

Clinton deserves credit — albeit less than he claims

The second reaction, particularly among Republicans, was to blame the International Monetary Fund for squandering money. This is unfair. The IMF was justified in giving Russia \$4.8 billion six weeks ago. At that point, the injection to the central bank's reserves had a chance of helping. But then came the futile attempt to prop up the rouble. Handing over the next \$4.2 billion, due in mid-September, would serve little point. It could have been used to prop up failing private banks run by a powerful oligarchy; the cash could have left the Russian system before officials made it home to Washington.

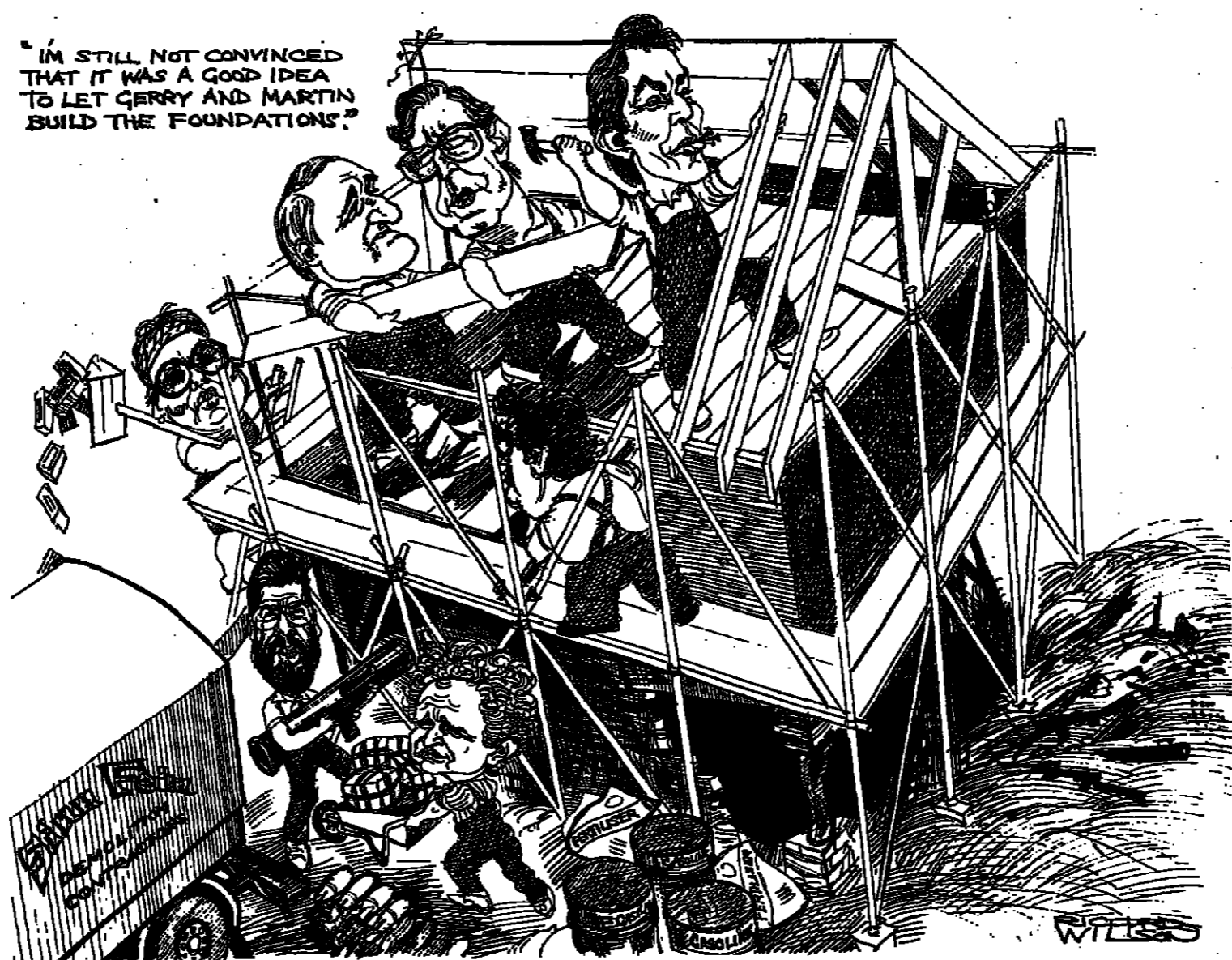
This failure does not make the IMF redundant as an institution. There are good questions about the conditions it attaches to its loans, but they are not the ones Congress asks. The fund remains one of the few bodies capable of tackling such a crisis, as China recognised yesterday with its \$540 million donation to Russia through the IMF. In blaming the fund, Congress is refusing to acknowledge America's impotence.

This is a sobering moment for the United States: the world's only superpower is unable to coax or bully much weaker countries along a path of mutual interest. It has found the world's best recipe for prosperity, yet cannot persuade others to share it; their stubbornness drags it down. That realisation will change American politics.

Mr Clinton's gregarious confidence has perfectly matched the friendly, understated individualism of the 1990s; he has encouraged people to think that with a bit of work, they can feel a lot better. But now, at last, Vice-President Al Gore may have come into his own. His temperament is pessimistic: he sees global, impersonal, barely controllable forces as the main threat to health and happiness. That may resonate with a more fearful mood.

If so, Republicans will have work to do. In a field of potential presidential runners as sprawling and shaggy as a Grand National line-up, the only clear theme is family values. When asked for a vision of America's role in the next turbulent decade, that will not take them far enough. It would be a shame if over-optimism gave way to gloom, or if America's international confidence under Mr Clinton were replaced by isolation. The Asian and Russian failures are, after all, a brutal tribute to the success of the United States. But unlike Mr Clinton, the next President will not be able to bank in that triumph.

In the past two weeks, the United States has nominated the diffuse, ill-defined "war against terrorism" as the successor to the Cold War, and has chosen to fight it. It may regret stirring up that hornet's nest. The American interest would be more clearly served by using the little influence it has in helping a third of the globe learn its economic lessons.



Ulster's smoking guns

Sean O'Callaghan says there can be no peace until weapons are handed in

The first terrorist prisoners to be released in Northern Ireland as a consequence of the Good Friday agreement, will walk free from jails today. So the process continues: the road to peace, prosperity and the "balanced constitutional settlement" which the British and Irish Governments have pursued for over 25 years.

The prisoners get out, the punishment shootings, mutilations, racketeering and the occasional murder and bombing continue. Gerry Adams refuses to say the "war" is over. He for one will not be bullied. And there is no sign that any of the terrorist groups whose prisoners are due to be released have the slightest interest in decommissioning their vast arsenals.

Some would have us believe that none of that matters. This is a process; the show must be kept on the road. Well, I'm sorry, but I think that it does. Many people, including myself, supported the agreement on the basis that prisoner releases and full participation in the proposed executive were linked to decommissioning. That is what we were told. We wait for the Prime Minister to deliver.

There is more nonsense talked about decommissioning than any aspect of this process. Terrorist groups hold on to weapons for three reasons. They wish to use them to kill and terrorise people. They wish to retain that threat. Or they have internal problems and cannot deliver.

A combination of all of those factors is inhibiting the various terrorist groups from fulfilling their part of the agreement. But none of this is reason enough for government and society to acquiesce in a sordid conspiracy to release prisoners and allow IRA-Sinn Fein into government, while at the same time their guns are used to mutilate and murder.

Let's explore some of the arguments used by those who say that decommissioning is a red herring. It is not the weapons that need to be decommissioned, we are told, it's the mindset and rust is the best form of decommissioning. If mindsets have truly been decommissioned, why hold on to guns? It is obvious that it is a very thorny issue and David Trimble and the Ulster Unionists are making it clear that they will not accept IRA-Sinn Fein into the new executive until there has been substantial decommissioning.

The absence of decommissioning is going to create serious difficulties for the entire process, so why the obvious

determination to hold on to the weapons? Could it possibly be that it is an insurance policy, in case the agreement does not deliver?

As for the argument that rust will do the job, consider this. I attended my first Provisional IRA meeting in late 1970. We entered a large grain-store where dried barley was piled in one corner. Underneath were more than 40 assorted guns and a large quantity of ammunition of various calibre. There were 303 rifles, Thompson and Sten sub-machineguns, a large collection of pistols and revolvers as well as one Bren gun.

The weapons were cleaned and oiled and the ammunition sorted according to calibre. Those weapons had been stored by the local IRA since the end of its border campaign in 1962. The local IRA had been kicked out of the republican movement in 1966 because they disagreed with the political direction of the then leadership — a bit like today's Real or Continuity IRA. But of course they held on to the guns. Within a couple of days the weapons were sent to Northern Ireland where they were undoubtedly used in the Provisional IRA's campaign of terror. They did not fade into thin air. They stayed what they always were — effective killing tools. Eight years after the previous IRA campaign, they had simply been brought back into operation.

That one incident encapsulates the relationship between the gun and militant Irish republicanism. You do not give up your guns because you might need them again. At the least, in the face of weak government, they are a powerful reminder of what may happen if demands are not met.

But wouldn't it be easy to decommission weapons one day and acquire more when one felt like it? This is a consistent argument often used by people who know better but do not want to interfere. It is spurious and dangerous nonsense.

Let us trace that scenario. The IRA leadership decides to decommission. A few weeks later, one of the leaders tells a group of IRA men that new

weapons are needed. They look at him with their mouths open. "You want us to take the risk of going to jail, of being shot carrying out an armed robbery to finance the purchase of weapons while you are handing in the ones we already have?"

Life is not like that. It took the IRA 16 years to get the type and quantity of weaponry it craved. It might never have done so had not a combination of events persuaded Colonel Muammar Gaddafi to give them more than 100 tonnes of guns and explosives free of charge. It is extremely unlikely that a similar situation could arise today.

While it is true that many weapons are made from fertilisers — large mortars capable of launching 500lb bombs — their manufacture is costly, difficult and carries the risk of arrest and imprisonment. Who would want to run that risk if their organisation had already decommissioned similar equipment?

We are told that some mindsets have been decommissioned. Gerry Adams yesterday reiterated his condemnation of the Omagh bomb which is, we are told, a new departure. Yet I was present at a Sinn Fein convention in 1983 when Mr McGuinness condemned the INLA bomb attack on the Dropping Well Inn in Ballykelly, Co Londonderry, in which 17 soldiers and civilians were killed. He also called on that organisation to disband. Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness have never had a problem condemning acts carried out by other republican groups — or urging them to disband.

But their organisation is sacrosanct. Decommission? Not us, we have no weapons. The IRA must answer that one. And the IRA, as recently as last weekend, told us what they thought: "There will be no decommissioning." They could not be clearer. Let out our prisoners, let us be part of government, but we will keep our weapons. Both Governments are letting themselves be bullied. They know this — everyone knows it. But the process has become the false god at whose feet we worship.

Guns and bombs kill, that is what they are made to do

If the IRA and loyalist terrorists do not seriously begin the business of decommissioning in the next few days, they will have demonstrated their bad faith. If both Governments accept a refusal and try to push the process forward regardless, they too will have acted in bad faith.

If such circumstances arise, David Trimble, Ulster's Unionist and all people who understand the fundamentals of democratic accountability, will be correct to say "Sorry, no deal is worth this".

It must be clearly understood that AK47s and Semtex do not grow on trees. They were brought into Ireland by the leadership of the republican and loyalist terror groups: the very people who now lecture us on civil liberties and the road to peace. They and no one else have sole responsibility for those guns and bombs.

They are not being asked to surrender. The question is, do they want a stable and peaceful Northern Ireland? They say they do, yet the guns and explosives which they imported and manufactured to fight a "war" are lying in bunkers, ditches and under kitchen floors across Ireland. They must start to get rid of them. They must prove to even the most sceptical that they are serious. That is not surrender. It is simply an essential step towards the democratic process. Stop threatening us, get rid of your guns and bombs. Even if you do not intend to use them, you are responsible for their existence and the implied threat that carries.

No doubt President Clinton will have many fine things to say when he visits Ireland. One thing he must say loudly, clearly and unambiguously. Get rid of your weapons of murder and destruction. Until you do, there is no place for you, not just in government, but in civilised society.

Guns and bombs kill, that is what they are for. Unless they are got rid off, by the people responsible for them, one day someone else will use them to continue the "war" — assuming, of course, that the very people who now lecture us about peace and democracy don't. We know no more and have no answers until we see the guns on the table.

Sean O'Callaghan is a former member of the IRA and author of The Informer (Bantam).

Simon Jenkins is away.

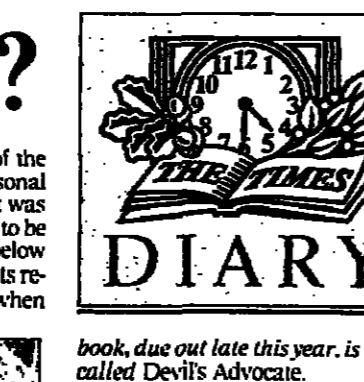
Word Smith?

CHRIS SMITH'S excursion into print has proved to be a bonfire of the vanities. Not only has *Creative Britain*, the Culture Secretary's personal perspective on "Cool Britannia", failed to fly out of the shops since it was published in May. It now turns out that the book's first print run had to be pulped because it contained an embarrassing mistake by Smith (below right). The tome referred to the wannabe powerhouse of Britpop and its related outpourings as the Department of Culture, Media and Sport when his office had only just been renamed the Department for Culture etc. After the error was spotted, Faber & Faber, the wretched publisher, had to reprint the entire run. Smith's office described the fiasco as "a commercial decision taken by the publishers".

As the first book by a Cabinet minister about his own portfolio in 30 years, hopes were high for a best-seller. With about as much imagination as one might expect from Whitehall bureaucrats, however, the tome merely lumped together speeches and thoughts by Smith. The only ray of commercial chutzpah was a cover by Damien Hirst (left). But the artist's work failed to save the minister from abuse by critics. George Walden described it as "unpublishable maudlin trash" while Will Self compared reading it to striking himself over the head with a wooden plank. As I never paid £7.99 when the book came



out, I look forward to picking up a copy in a Charing Cross Road's bookshop for 99p.



book, due out late this year, is to be called *Devil's Advocate*.

Hot pursuit

THE ill-feeling between the National Trust and hunters intensifies. Bill Fewings, joint master of the Quantock Staghounds for 12 years, has been forced to resign by the hunt's members after they discovered that he was in talks with the National Trust about selling it some of his land.

observed, the unspeakable in full pursuit of the uncatchable.

● **MURDER** One, the crime bookshop in London patronised by Frank Dobson, has been held up by an armed robber who made off with the contents of the till.

Counted out?

AN INTRIGUING tale about the Duchess of York reaches me from Italy. I was under the impression that Sarah Ferguson had spent the past few weeks enjoying the company of Count Gaddo della Gherardesca, her aristocratic armist. But

Il Messaggero, an Italian newspaper, claims that she has spent up to £130,000 of her hard-earned cash hiring Porto Ercole, an exclusive villa on the Tuscan coast.

The estate, owned by a mysterious Italian-Brazilian millionaire, comes with five staff, and is said to have been used by the duchess for two months during the summer. Her office, however, dismisses the tale as pure fiction. No doubt the Duchess will be greatly reassured by Fergie's parsimony.



● **AFTER** opposing repression in distant, and not so distant, parts of the world, Amnesty International has come up with a new campaign. At last weekend's Notting Hill Carnival, the organisation's float carried a banner proclaiming the Right to Party.

Acting up

THE latest starlet to send Hollywood into a spin is clearly learning to employ the mandatory temperamental behaviour. Chloe Sevigny, (above right) the star of *Kids*, arrived in London to announce her presence in *The Last Days of Disco*, a hit comedy based in New York. Although a descendant of the Marquise de Sevigne, an 18th-century French court gossip, she was unwilling to endorse her latest cel-

Alan Coren



There once was a hungry gosling (and other excuses)

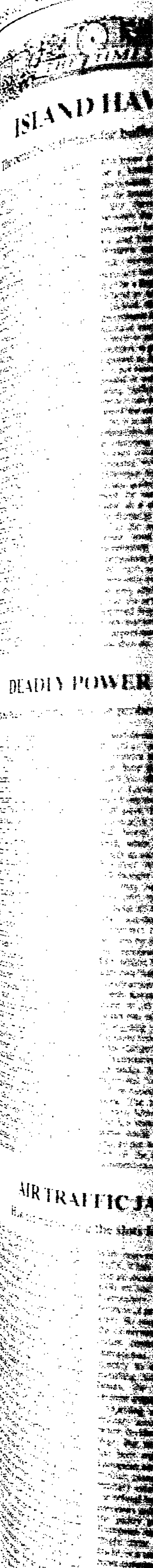
I was mortified to read, a day or so back, that Miss Germaine Greer had been clobbered by a two-week driving ban and a £540 fine for whizzing through nocturnal Essex at 101mph. What mortified me was not the penalty itself, severe though it was, but the fact that the wondrous narrative fashioned to mitigate the offence had achieved absolutely nothing except the revelation that within the ears of magistrates lies the stoniest ground there is.

For what Miss Greer's lawyer, Kendal Travis, told the Harlow court was that his client had wellied her throttle only because she feared for the lives of her tiny goslings in distant Saffron Walden; who, as dusk fell, had found themselves all alone in a darkling orchard lit only by the eyes of prowling foxes. And as if it were not enough to have a story-teller called Kendal Travis, a setting called Saffron Walden, and a cast of farmyard innocents and villains so traditionally comprised as to have not merely Aesop but Hans Andersen and both Grimms spinning in their graves at the unacknowledged debt, the tale is richer yet, the reason Saffron Walden was distant that night was because Miss Greer was stranded at a glittering party aboard a pleasure steamer in the Thames, racked by fears that if she did not get home by the appointed hour, dreadful things would happen — though whether her Mercedes would have turned back into four mice and a pumpkin, Kendal did not say.

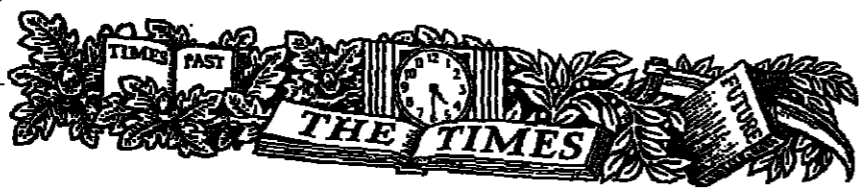
But what he did say should have been more than enough, you would think, to melt the heart of the flintiest beak: here is Miss Greer, admittedly once an icon of turbulence but now a distinguished elderly rural academic, given to tramping her sylvan acres in granny glasses, a fetchingly battered big straw hat, and long flowing chintz, not merely broadcasting gosling fodder from her Prada trolly but, as you have read, dispensing love and succour to all creatures great and small; provided, of course, they are dumb, since she has long ago, and very publicly, exchanged the hurly-burly of the *chaise-longue* for the deep peace of the single bed. Could there be anyone likelier than this dear little caring spinster to so commend herself to a country magistrate that hardly has the charge been read than his gold pinneez have been whipped off, his Paisley handkerchief has been pressed to his piping eye, and his voice is tremblingly dismissing that charge forthwith and sending the chargee back to her chooks and porkers without a stain on her character?

Manifestly, there could. While I have no way of knowing the reason for the bench's brutal dissembling explanation, I am tempted to guess that he treated the whole thing as just another, well, fairy-story. And that — as, knowing me by now, you yourself will have guessed — is the aspect which mortifies me most of all. For I, down the long arches of the years, have put my boot to the floor on many occasions, been sometimes caught bang to rights, and, like all honest motorists, entered a not guilty plea backed by plausible farragoes about expiring aunts and unattended infants and gases left on and desperate bladders and three-line whips on this and that. Astonishingly, these never passed muster, yet I continued to live in hope: I should doubtless speed again, be apprehended again, but this time I would a tale unfold whose lightest word would harrow up the JP's soul, freeze his old blood, make his two eyes, like stars, start from their spheres, his knotted and combined locks to part and ...

It is a hope I can no longer entertain. If the law refuses to concern itself with the distressing trifles of Germaine's pastoral fable, it will assuredly have scant truck with any Cricklewood gallimaufry I cobble together. Sad that I shall never be able, now, to use a terrific story about having to dash back to my pond because the frog had just spawned and there were predatory news about, but I am off to bin my checked cap and my stringback gloves and chop in my nippy red German ragtop for a slushy brown Polish estate to keep me on the straight and narrow and egregiously legal. Not for the first time, Miss Greer has compelled men to reconsider their wicked ways.



سكزا من الأهل



ISLAND HAVEN

The benefits of Britain for buffeted investors

Not since 1987 have world stock markets been so panicky. The smell of fear has obliterated the taste of gain that had powered the longest postwar bull market in America, Britain and Europe. Yesterday, the Dow Jones lurched wildly, while the FTSE 100 dropped 80 points in response to the 6.4 per cent fall on Wall Street the day before. Is this just the beginning of the end of the good times or the start of something much worse?

Some economists are predicting a 1930s-style world depression. In 1929, it was a stock market crash that precipitated collapse in the real economy. This phenomenon has recently been repeated in Japan, where the Nikkei share index has fallen by nearly two thirds since 1990, and the economy has stagnated for seven years. Consumers there have lost confidence and refuse to spend money, however great the incentives. Although interest rates are lower than 0.5 per cent, they are failing to act as a stimulus to growth.

Could the same happen elsewhere? In America, consumers have never had it so good: but their sense of financial wellbeing stems not just from higher incomes but from rising asset prices. Most Americans own shares and the stock market has repaid them handsomely. In the past ten years, the Dow Jones has risen, with barely a blip, to reach levels that just before the recent crash were some four times higher than in 1988. Americans have hardly needed to save: the market has done their saving for them.

The UK market has performed nearly as well. From about 1,700 ten years ago, the FTSE-100 rose to just over 6,000 at the peak earlier this year. But Britain has a smaller proportion of shareholders in the population: Britons' sense of wealth is determined more by earnings and house prices.

In America, a stock market crash is likely to lead to a cut in consumption — and therefore in growth — as people increase their savings to compensate for the fall in the value of their assets. The same may happen

to a lesser extent in Britain. There may also be a knock-on effect on property prices, particularly in London and the South East, as the financial sector starts to feel the pinch.

But there are two critical differences between the 1990s and the 1930s. First, the economic fundamentals are sound in America and Europe, if not in Asia and Russia. Western stock markets may have been a little overvalued but the underlying economies are healthy and well-managed. If there is to be a flight to quality, the money is likely to land in America and Britain.

Indeed, the UK is, in relative terms, an investment haven. America, Russia and Japan have extremely weak leaders. Germany is deep in an election campaign. Britain, by contrast, is politically strong. It may be more exposed to Japan than other Europeans but it is not heavily involved in Russia. And the pound is outside the euro, whose launch is being buffeted by the financial hurricane. Britain can justly claim, at the moment, to be one of the most stable countries in the world.

So it is all the more important for British politicians and central bankers to take a lead in ensuring that the response to this stock market collapse is a sensible one. Such a response would constitute the other crucial difference from the 1930s. Then, as now in Japan, governments failed to appreciate the need for early, aggressive cuts in interest rates as a countervailing measure against the threat to the real economy.

For the moment, rates are at an appropriate level. But should a deflationary momentum build up, central banks must not hesitate to cut them. They did so after the 1987 crash, and this was the right thing to do. Their only mistake was to keep them low for too long afterwards. They would be wise to avoid the errors of 1988, but should not be deterred from following the course of 1987. Stock market crashes do not inexorably lead to depressions; but bad policies can ensure that they do.

DEADLY POWER PLAY

North Korea's long-range missile probes Clinton's defences

In testimony to the US Congress last year, a senior North Korean defector outlined Pyongyang's strategy to achieve its goal of driving US forces out of the Korean peninsula and defeating the South. The North believed, he said, that if it could rapidly inflict 20,000 US military casualties, Washington would pull back. The key to this strategy was a missile that could reach US bases not just in South Korea, but in Japan. The North had been trying to develop one since 1965.

This testimony was widely discounted. Satellites had located a two-stage missile, the Daepodong-1; but US analysts thought that the collapsing North Korean economy was technically incapable of bringing up to test standard a missile with the required 1,200-mile range. So must the Clinton Administration have hoped. Alas, yet again, for wishful thinking about this Stalinist re-doubt. Last weekend North Korea triumphantly sent the Daepodong-1 soaring over Japan, to land in the Pacific several hundred miles off the eastern Japanese seaboard.

This is a profoundly destabilising development. Japan is totally vulnerable to missile attacks; it has neither missile defence nor warning systems and learnt about this test from the US military. It comes on the heels of the US discovery that 15,000 North Korean workers are building a secret underground facility thought to be either a new reactor or nuclear reprocessing plant — activity which in any judgement other than that of the Clinton Administration contravenes its side of the 1994 agreement to renounce nuclear weapons. North Korea is already mass-producing the shorter-range Rodong-1 which it test-fired in 1993. As it finally admitted last June, it also sells missiles to countries such as Syria and Iran

— and demanded \$500 million a year from the US as "compensation" for desisting.

America has assumed that the regime of Kim Jong Il calculates risks and rewards much like other states. Insofar as this is true, North Korea seems to have learnt one thing only from the 1994 pact, which is that blackmail pays. The timing of this deliberately provocative test may have something to do with North Korea's 50th anniversary next week, when the reclusive "Dear Leader" is finally to succeed his father Kim Il Sung as President. With up to 800,000 people a year still thought to be dying of the malnutrition that may have claimed two million lives since 1995, the myth of military invincibility is about all the regime has to trumpet. But other non-domestic calculations enter in.

The test coincided with a long-delayed decision by the US, South Korea, Japan and the European Union about who pays the \$4.6 billion bill for providing North Korea with two "safe" light water nuclear reactors. Construction is due to start next month: North Korea is then committed to reveal more of its nuclear secrets. Predictably, Japan has now delayed its \$1 billion share. Pyongyang need no longer disclose and at the same time has reminded the world that it is too dangerous not to be humoured.

Humouring Pyongyang still seems to be US policy. Madeleine Albright has merely expressed "concern" and said that the test will be raised in talks with North Korea this week. The harder Pyongyang probes the Clinton Administration, the softer it finds it. The US should reflect that every weak response could tempt this belligerent dictatorship to put American resolve to the ultimate test, on the territory of South Korea. Containment can make sense only if it contains.

AIR TRAFFIC JAMS

How old habits clog the slots for take-off

Stacked up over Heathrow or Gatwick, thousands of passengers returning from their holidays have felt their anger rising as one lame excuse succeeds another. Whether the cause be crowded flight paths, bad weather or a go-slow by French or Spanish air controllers, Europe's impatient travellers have heard it all before. The three-hour wait for the charter is as predictable as the pilot's weary apology once aboard that "we are quickly to get you off take-off". The number 26 in the slot for take-off for nine problems this year are the worst for nine years. The Association of European Airlines reported a delay of more than 15 minutes in almost a third of all flights in June, the second monthly figure since 1989 and the second worst since records began in the early 1980s.

Such statistics are an indictment of bureaucratic indifference and technical incompetence. The congestion in Europe's skies could be swiftly eased by three basic steps, could be an opening of the corridors still reserved for military aircraft, investment to improve antiquated air control centres and the dropping of petty jealousies over control of national airspace. Europe's transport ministers seem unwilling to streamline a system that is becoming as dangerous as it is unreliable.

Take, as a symptom, the farcical history of the attempt to build a better air control centre in southern Britain. For as long as most people can remember, the present 30-year-old centre at West Drayton has been overcrowded, undermanned and overwhelmed.

With responsibility also for some military traffic, it has recorded too many near-misses, and air incidents for safety. Yet the proposed £350 million replacement at Swanwick, in Hampshire, is almost two years overdue because of problems with the computer software. So overambitious was the design that the Government has now been told that the entire centre may never become fully operational. Unless something is done quickly to upgrade West Drayton, now handling 5,000 air movements every 24 hours, the approaches to London will become impassable.

Opening up the corridors reserved for military aircraft would be one of the best peace dividends from the end of the Cold War. But since 1989 virtually no progress has been made and around a third of all European airspace remains largely closed to civilian planes. Partly the stubbornness of military establishments is to blame; partly the refusal by one country to surrender such corridors unless all do. This only underlines the paltry progress made in an area of European co-operation where some good might come. Eurocontrol, based in Maastricht, is a useful umbrella over some of the most crowded skies; but neither France nor Britain is willing to cede any air control duties. Until national governments and their defence ministries take civilian congestion more seriously, summer delays will only get worse, leading perhaps to an air disaster.

Terror legislation 'undemocratic'

From the Director of Charter88

Sir, Today Parliament is recalled to discuss the Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Bill. As I write, the Bill has not even been published, but is likely to breach the European Convention on Human Rights, which the Government is about to bring into British law through the Human Rights Act. Despite this the Prime Minister has allegedly written to backbench Labour MPs to quell their fears that this legislation may be too draconian.

The Omagh bombing resulted in a tragic loss of life at a time of real hope for the peace process in Northern Ireland. It has undoubtedly put this process under strain. But the strength of a democratically entrenched process is that it is clearly the will of the people. At the time of the referendum on the Good Friday agreement, people voted for a process that had human rights at its heart. Indeed the agreement itself recognised that the breaches of human rights that had occurred in the past had been part of the problem. How then are breaches now part of the solution?

Recalling Parliament for two days to railroad through an unseen piece of legislation which sweeps all before it comes ill from a Government which claims to stand for democracy and human rights.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW PUDDEPHATT,
Director, Charter88,
Exmouth House,
3-11 Pine Street, EC1R 0JH,
September 1.

Gifted dyslexics

From Mrs Philomena Ott

Sir, The achievements of Alexander Faludy, the 15-year-old gifted dyslexic who has won a place at Cambridge (reports, August 26 and 28), are a shining example of what dyslexic pupils can achieve when their problems are identified and the appropriate teaching provided.

As the High Court case highlights, the disabled students allowance, which helps them to buy equipment and additional personal help such as secretarial assistance, is inadequate to meet the needs of students such as Faludy. Is it not now time for the Education Secretary, Mr Blunkett, to review this — particularly as Portsmouth City Council has now agreed to grant Faludy £10,000?

Mr Justice Tucker's dismissal of "giftedness" as not "a special educational need" was unfortunate. Does this dismissal also extend to gifted but learning-disabled people such as Churchill and Einstein, whose early school days were blighted by difficulties with basic literacy including spelling, writing and reading?

Faludy has made history by being accepted by Cambridge at the age of 15; but he still has special educational needs for which he will continue to need additional support.

Dyslexia has become a recognised condition for which we now have biological and genetic evidence. Like all syndromes there are varying degrees of the condition and it affects the whole ability range, including those with IQs below 80 or above 150.

Yours faithfully,
PHILOMENA OTT
(Author, *How to Detect and Manage Dyslexia*, Heinemann, 1997),
Hughenden,
Burkes Road, Beaconsfield HP9 1EP,
August 28.

From Dr D. S. J. Maw

Sir, The High Court judgment declining to force Portsmouth City Council to make a grant to Alexander Faludy provides an all too vivid example of the failure of modern "civilisation", and the inability of the legal system to have any influence.

How splendid that modern technology can enable a talented youth to communicate effectively — a prime tenet of education. How sad that the dictates of financial expediency deny access to the means of achieving this. How stultifying that the law, whilst providing impartial interpretation, is unable to comment on the need for humanity or wisdom in the interpretation of regulations.

I suspect the situation will only get worse. Apparently we prefer to be spared the relatively small sum of money required to enable an individual to become a creative and productive member of society, and instead to keep him frustrated and impotent.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN MAW,
53 Madeira Park,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5SY.

From the Director of the Conservative Disability Group

Sir, There is no need to raise £10,000 a year for special equipment to help young Alexander Faludy with his reading and writing.

His writing needs can be handled by a modest home computer/printer set which, following the advice given in Interface by the excellent Dr Key-board, can cost less than £1,000; and a speech-input program costing in the low hundreds; and the Royal National Institute for the Blind can advise on the modestly priced attachments needed for his reading.

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM C. DUNLOP, Director,
Conservative Disability Group,
81 Gregories Road,
Beaconsfield HP9 1HN.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Tory divide on EMU in perspective

From Mr Benet Steinberg

Sir, The Conservative Party as a whole is not really split on EMU (letters headline today), although various failed MEPs, ex-MPs and dinosaurs may wish to give that impression.

The combined ranks of Little Englanders and Little Europeans amount to no more than 20 per cent of the party. The rest of us are with Mr Hague's very clear strategy, taking his speeches together with policy statements, and no amount of trouble-making will change that.

Britain's place in the wider world demands both that we stay engaged in Europe and that we continue to battle against the new variant Euro-sclerosis that affects our mainland partners. All Conservatives believe that.

Any fight at the party conference in October will damage the Conservatives' ability to win European, Welsh assembly, Scottish parliament and local government seats. It will also be won by the sensible majority who sign up to the leader's vision.

Closer relations between the party hierarchy and the new Conservative MEPs, as specified in the new constitution, are likely to ensure a

diminution of the habit of "going native".

Yours faithfully,
BENET STEINBERG
(Prospective European parliamentary candidate, London Region (Conservative)),
10 Cambridge Road,
Wanstead, E11 2PN,
August 28.

From Lord Young of Grafton

Sir, Mr John Stevens, MEP, described (letter, August 25) the opposition to the euro as a tragedy for Conservatism as EMU was "the fulfilment of the strict monetarist principles in which we have long believed". Surely the opposite is the case.

The euro bloc is, without exception, a high taxation, high government spending, excessive employment regulation and taxation bloc, producing unacceptable levels of unemployment. If we enter, then it is straight back to the Seventies. Do we really want to recreate the social tensions of another Winter of Discontent?

Yours,
YOUNG,
House of Lords,
August 27.

Regulating for quality on television

From Dr J. M. Wober

Sir, Mr Peter Bazalgette has said at the Edinburgh Festival (Media, August 28) that broadcast quality is best served by letting the market provide what viewers will pursue, and that institutionalised regulation is redundant.

I have enjoyed watching programmes that his company, Bazal Productions, and others like it, have made on cookery and gardening. I have also done much research on the problem of quality — whether it is convincingly defined by the cost or the diversity of the product, audience size, appreciation, the number of spontaneous complaints, analysis by critics or accountants, or by any other criterion.

Success in but one of these avenues, or even two, is not in itself a sufficient arbiter of quality. It takes an experienced and well-equipped institution such as the Independent Television Commission (ITC) or the BBC to be able to channel such information towards maintaining the best available quality in output.

Bazal's productions, and similar material, have had the huge advantage of being nurtured within a protected climate — in a typical week (before the arrival of Channel 5) the

genres of hobbies/leisure pursuits, documentaries and features together comprised 15 per cent of all titles broadcast. This would never have happened in an open market, such as in the US; nor is it likely to persist on the established channels — unless we maintain and adapt our regulatory institutions.

Mr Bazalgette is right, though, in urging that regulatory work must be seen to be just and effective. Three ways in which to improve the credibility of the regulators are to have the ITC financed by (a very small proportion of) the licence revenue to make it obvious that they are doing their job for the public; for the BBC Governors to be reconstituted "outside" the BBC in a position parallel to that of the ITC vis-à-vis the commercial channels; and for the results of audience appreciation research, still carried out routinely by the Broadcasters' Audience Research Board, to be published.

Yours sincerely,
MALLORY WOBER
(Deputy Head of Research,
Independent Broadcasting
Authority, 1973-92),
Flat C,
17 Lancaster Grove, NW3 4EU,
wober@clara.co.uk
August 31.

Wounded Dervishes

From Mr Jad Adams

Sir, It was not just "a war correspondent" who accused Kitchener of having the wounded Dervishes killed after the battle of Orduhrum (report, August 28). Winston Churchill, an eye-witness who was at the time a serving officer under Kitchener, wrote to his mother on January 26, 1899: "I shall merely say that the victory at Orduhrum was disgraced by the inhuman slaughter of the wounded and that Kitchener was responsible for this."

The killing of wounded Dervishes was such a standard feature of the Sudan campaign that *The Graphic* even printed a picture of it on October 1, 1898, under the title, "The dark side of campaigning in the Sudan: despatching wounded Dervishes". It was done from field sketches by W. T. Massey.

A following picture showed the justification which was that the wounded, sure of their place in Heaven if they died battling for their holy cause, would use their last breath to attack Kitchener's soldiers.

Yours faithfully,
JAD ADAMS
(Producer of *Kitchener: The Empire's Flawed Hero* for *Reputations* (BBC2)),
Brook Lapping Productions,
6 Anglers Lane,
Kentish Town, NW6 3DG,
August 28.

Naval links

From Mr James C. Dow

Sir, Samuel Greig and John Paul Jones were not the only Scottish sailors to have served in the Imperial Russian Navy in the 18th and early 19th centuries (Commander Bothwell's letter, August 24).

Among others was a forebear of mine, Robert Crown (1763-1842), who rose to be an Admiral and is awarded several high honours. In 1822 he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Baltic and of Cronstadt.

One of the stories told of him is that on one occasion he refused to fight alongside Jones because of the latter's former service with the Americans and that, as a result, Jones was dismissed by the Russians.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES C. DOW,
2 Burton Lodge,
Portsmouth Road, SW15 2HT,
August 25.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

End to university places scramble

From the Secretary of the Headmistresses' and Headmistresses' Conference

Sir, "Not a moment too soon" would be the comment of heads of institutions preparing students for entrance to university in response to your report, "Colleges to end clearing system" (August 24). They have been saying for five years or more that final applications should be made when the students know the actual A-level results they have to match the university departmental requirements. The thought that it could take another four years to operate a new electronic system is not a happy one.

The system may be working more smoothly than before but it is still wasteful of time and resources and unfair, as surveys carried out by HMC and the Girls' Schools Association for the last three years have shown. The process of making applications to six universities to secure one place takes up time which students, school advisers, university entrance tutors and officers and others could better use.

Moderate students may be encouraged to hold one optimistic offer (grades which might be achieved if results exceed expectations) and one pessimistic offer, to cover the worse scenario. Not infrequently they fail to get their first choice and are reluctant to take up their insurance choice when they have the grades to do better.

Those who leave their decision until clearing have a better chance. There are many similar examples of unfairness, particularly involving able candidates competing for scarce places at universities in high demand. The new system should do much to address these problems.

Yours faithfully,
V. S. ANTHONY,
Secretary, The Headmistresses' and Headmistresses' Conference,
130 Regent Road, Leicester LE1 7PG,
August 24.

Wheels and woe

From Mr G. de la Bédoyère

Sir, I wonder if Mr John Prescott has fully appreciated the problems facing him in trying to persuade people to stop using their cars. An academic friend at the University of Durham told me recently that each of the seven students who live next door to him has a car and drives individually to lectures, which are at most a 15-minute walk away.

At Durham myself, some 20 years ago, I found barely seven cars to my college. Now I watch my neighbours with teenage children train each one to drive and hand over use of a car, which is then driven everywhere.

A six-year-old friend of one of my children, whom I once walked round the corner to a party, puffed as we reached the end of the street: "It's a very long way to your car."

Yours faithfully,
GUY DE LA BÉDOYÈRE,
20 Eltham Park, Gardens,
Eltham, SE9 1AW,
September 1.

Sales pressure

From Mr Simon Le Couteur

Sir, Surely the main purpose of "best before" dates (letters, August 25 and 27) is that one may spend a happy hour ceremoniously examining every packet and tin in the kitchen cupboard condemning approximately one quarter to the bin, whilst simultaneously feigning disgust that this would not happen if you were in charge of the kitchen.

Products with labels offering the chance to win a Sinclair CS or tickets for the World Cup in Mexico should be used immediately or thrown away.

Yours,
SIMON LE COUTEUR,
3 Ennerdale Drive,
Prodsham, Cheshire WA6 7LF,
simonlec@aol.com
August 31.

From Mrs Jane Slade

Sir, Yesterday evening a plastic bottle of pink salad dressing, some days past its sell-by date, spontaneously exploded showering its contents over walls, floor, ceiling, plants, pictures, bookshelves, the unhappy diners and the cat. Could this be the food manufacturers' latest way of ensuring we eat nothing deemed to be bad for us?

Yours faithfully,
JANE SLADE,
34 Bristol Road, Ipswich IP4 4LP,
August 29.

From Mr B. J. Goodchild

Sir, The food department of perhaps our best-known high street retailer sells bread and rolls whose "display until" and "best before" dates are one and the same — ie, the date of purchase. The label does, however, read reassuringly: "Fresh today."

Yours faithfully,
BARRY GOODCHILD,
36 Hinton Road,
Wallington, Surrey SM6 9AU,
August 27.

From Mrs Penelope J. Power

Sir, One should simply draw the line when the price is shown in shillings and pence.

Yours faithfully,
PENELOPE J. POWER,
Swanmore Lodge, Upper Swanmore,
Hampshire SO32 2QN,
August 27.

NEWS

Ulster violence over, says Adams

Sinn Fein moved to break the deadlock over IRA decommissioning with a statement that all but declared the war was over.

"The violence we have seen must be for all of us now a thing of the past, over, done with and gone," Gerry Adams announced before President Clinton's arrival in Northern Ireland tomorrow.

Channel Isle 'invasion' repulsed

Hours after an invasion force claimed the most southerly outpost of the British Isles as a Patagonian colony, a British bobby jumped from an inflatable dinghy and reasserted Her Majesty's rule over the tiny reef.

Clinton's warning

President Clinton appealed passionately to Russia to persist with economic reforms and warned everyone from President Yeltsin to schoolchildren against failed Communist policies.

Digging in

Protesters against Britain's first toll-motorway say that they have constructed a tunnel fortress that would allow them to stay underground for a month and to defy bailiffs.

Drugs 'prejudice'

Whitehall is worried that drug treatment has focused on white, middle-aged, middle-class abusers. A new campaign will aim at teenagers, women and ethnic minorities.

Flights delayed

Almost a third of European flights were badly delayed this summer, repeating the miserable airport scenes of the Eighties. Airlines say complacent politicians are to blame.

Terror laws pledge

The Government sought to defuse Labour backbench concerns over its emergency anti-terrorist laws by emphasising that they will contain safeguards against wrongful conviction.

Memory lane

Motorists drive more slowly on country roads that are made to look more like the lanes they once were. Out go the central white line and warning signs, down goes brown grit.

Harassed male

A woman bank manager hounded a young trainee because he was a man. He was ordered to mop the floor and finally sacked.

Corruption trial

A former Nato chief enters the dock with nine ex-ministers and party officials in a trial expected to expose corruption at the heart of Belgian politics.

Pets 'reprieve'

A report commissioned by the Government recommends abolishing anti-rabies quarantine for pets travelling between Britain and the Continent.

Euro trouble

Sinking stocks and hints of global recession threaten the European recovery that was supposed to launch the euro in 16 weeks' time.

Personal pictures

BBC1 is stuffy and reliable, like Queen Victoria; Channel 4 does things differently, like Richard Branson. Viewers reveal their images of TV channels.

Enclave of fear

Twelve thousand ethnic Albanians, corralled into a narrow strip of land in Kosovo by a tightening noose of Serb forces, fearfully await a massacre.

And less finally... News at Six-Thirty

The ITV companies have decided after months of deliberation to move News at Ten to earlier in the evening. They will ask the Independent Television Commission for permission to run the main evening news at 6.30pm.



Emmanuel Petit of Arsenal and the rest of France's World Cup squad received the Legion of Honour from President Chirac yesterday

BUSINESS

Russia: Barclays Bank has made a provision of £250 million to cover the cost of Russian losses. Normura, the Japanese broker, also revealed Russian losses.

SPORT

Cricket: John Crawley was chosen ahead of Graeme Hick in the England party for the winter tour to Australia. Among the surprise inclusions were the bowlers Peter Such and Alex Tudor.

ARTS

Festival fever: Critics review Eugene O'Neill plus concerts in Edinburgh; Prommers in London hear Andrew Davis conducting Elgar, and a Salonen premiere.

FEATURES

Don't say that: "All right, Marilyn, be sexy." That instruction was Laurence Olivier's big mistake when he directed Monroe in The Prince and the Showgirl.

POWER

Power bid: Southern Electric and Scottish Hydro-Electric revealed a near £5 billion merger. Southern was the last independent regional electricity company.

FOOTBALL

Football: Jamie Redknapp, whose career has been blighted by injury, is expected to be in the starting line-up for England's European Championship qualifier.

NET LOSS

Net loss: Spending too much time surfing through cyberspace or swapping e-mails? You may be in danger of becoming a victim of the Internet.

MARKETS

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 80.3 points to close at 5169.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 106.0 to 105.3 after a rise from \$1.6632 to \$1.6772 but a fall from DM2.9530 to DM2.9343.

ATHLETICS

Athletics: Matt Yates turned down the chance of prize-money with Europe at the World Cup in Johannesburg, preferring to be travelling reserve for Great Britain.



TOMORROW

FILMS

BOOKS

A buccaneer of the seas and a buccaneer of film production: new books reviewed

RENT BY FIRE

Rent by fire: Tenants should beware of making a deal on furniture in the property they rent; the items may constitute a fire danger.

DREAM ON

Dream on: When it comes to falling for a dream home, seemingly hardened estate agents are just as likely as the rest of us to listen to their hearts.

THE PAPER

Few ordinary Russians enjoy a better life under capitalism. Recent events indicate their patience may not last much longer.

LETTERS

Help for dyslexics: Tories and Europe; university places; quality television; FO telegrams; eco-exhibitionists; wounded Derivishes; sales pressure.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,886

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS 1 Lead towards the light - as the compiler tries to do? (3,1,4,7). 9 Person trained to pluck owl, for example (9). 10 What gives company to Queen - good one! (5). 11 Absorb private joke you hear (6). 12 Pasta that's just dandy (8). 13 Bird turned tail, having sound sense (6). 15 Unfortunate experience I had during stress (8). 18 French region - time and time again area is engulfed by sea (8). 19 Provocation, switching sides in the face of blow (6). 21 Prop leaves team exposed (8). 23 Unhealthy state? Yes, indeed! (3,3). 26 The changes at the top making us mad (3,2). 27 Sort of engine that takes more than one to drive, perhaps (3-6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20885. A grid of letters corresponding to the crossword puzzle.

Times Two Crossword, page 40

LOCAL INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions. UK Weather - All regions 0336 444 910. UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 410. Inland M25 0336 401 746. M25 and Link Roads 0336 401 747. National Motorway 0336 401 748. Continental Europe 0336 401 910. Channel crossing 0336 401 388. Flying to Heathrow & Gatwick airports 0336 407 305.

World City Weather

Table with columns for City, Sun, Rain, Max, Min. Cities include London, Paris, Rome, etc.

Hours of Darkness

Table with columns for Sun rises, Sun sets, Moon sets, Moon rises. Times for London, Bristol, Edinburgh, Manchester, Perthence.

FORECAST

General: East Anglia and south-east England will have outbreaks of rain. Elsewhere in England and Wales there may be showers between sunny spells. In the Northern Isles it will still be wet and windy but elsewhere in Scotland winds will be light with sunny spells and showers.

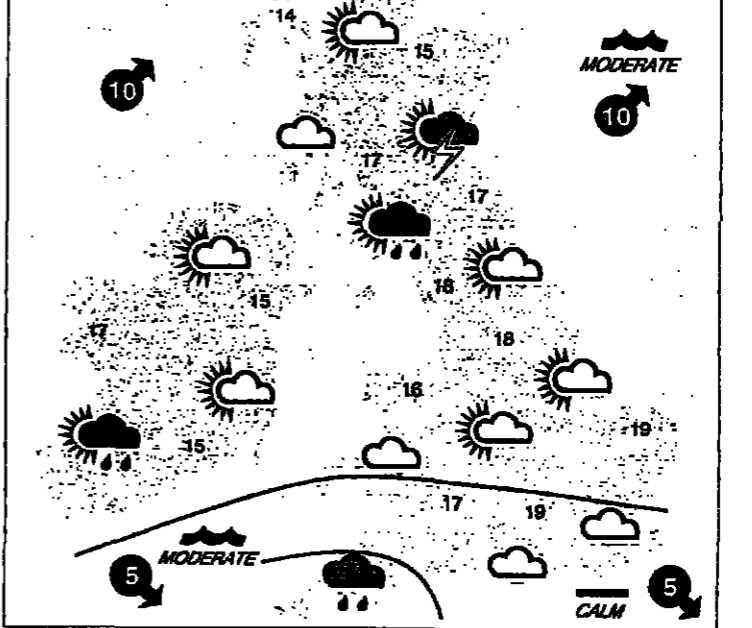
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions (Sun, Rain, Max, Min) for various locations across Britain like Aberdeen, Glasgow, London, etc.

ABROAD

Table showing weather conditions for various international locations like Accio, Alcotri, Algiers, Athens, etc.

NOON TODAY



HIGH TIDES

Table with columns for Location, AM, HT, PM, HT, TODAY, AM, HT, PM, HT. Lists high tide times for various ports.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table with columns for Location, Highest, Lowest. Lists temperature extremes for various locations.

NEWSPAPERS RECYCLING SUPPORT logo and text.

Cats & Dogs logo and text.

SCOOT 0800 192192 logo and text.

Large advertisement for Barclays bank, featuring a woman's face and the text 'Banks begin Barclay'.

INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY



BUSINESS
Anatole Kaletsky
on consequences
of the crash
PAGE 25



ARTS
Stephen Baldry
on life after
the Royal Court
PAGES 28-30



SPORT
John Woodcock
on Sri Lanka's
spinning wizard
PAGE 36

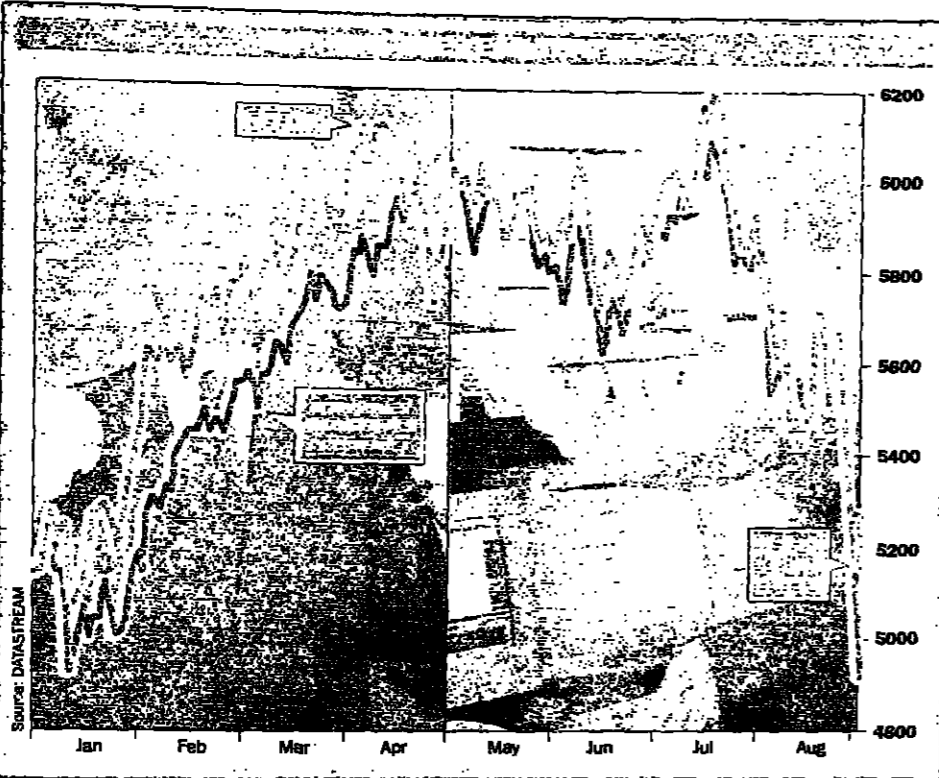
**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
38, 39**

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2 1998

Banks begin to count the cost of doing business in Russia Barclays loses £250m in crisis

By RICHARD MILES AND OLIVER AUGUST



Richard Grasso, NYSE chairman, hoping for a better day for traders around the world

BARCLAYS has become the first British casualty of the Russian financial crisis, announcing that it will take a second-half charge of £250 million to cover losses predominantly in the securities market.

The unexpected disclosure — banking analysts had estimated Barclays' total exposure at about £100 million — sent the bank's shares tumbling below £13 before they staged a modest recovery to end the day down 78p at £13.37.

Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, said its total Russian banking and securities trading exposure was £340 million, mostly in the form of government securities and counterparty credit with financial institutions.

The net effect of the provision described by Mr Taylor as very conservative, will reduce 1998 after-tax profits by £150 million. He added that Barclays Capital, the investment banking arm, had also made a trading loss of £75 mil-

lion in other markets during July and August.

"Default on domestic liabilities is an extremely unusual event," said Mr Taylor. "The terms of the [Russian Government's] debt restructuring were unclear and complicated." He added that the situation was worsened by the slow release of Russia's debt restructuring details.

In calculating the charge Barclays has assumed its financial hedges with Western and Japanese banks are sound, but those with Russian counterparties are virtually worthless. It has cut its Russian securities to about 10 per cent of their face value to allow for the rouble's devaluation.

Bob Diamond, head of Barclays Capital, said any sensible person would reassess their position in emerging markets in light of the widening spreads on securities. "We are seeing a repricing of credit," he said. There would be no job losses as a direct result of the Russian losses, he added.

Banking analysts immediately marked down their profit forecasts for Barclays by around £400 million, with most scaling up the trading losses in emerging markets. "This has to raise questions about risk controls in Barclays Capital, which is responsible for most of the losses," said one analyst.

Other UK banks exposed to events in Russia include NatWest which is believed to have loans in the country worth £100 million. Royal Bank of Scotland with about £60 million and HSBC Holdings, owner of Midland, also with £60 million.

In the US, Bankers Trust said its trading losses in the Russian and US markets had reached \$350 million (£210 million), which would push the Wall Street securities house into the red for the third quarter. It has marked down its portfolio of Russian investments by 85 per cent.

Bankers Trust's losses are the biggest so far announced

among American banks. But the biggest overall loser in the US is George Soros, the hedge fund manager who lost \$2 billion.

Nomura International admitted losses of \$350 million on Russian bond trading at its US and London offices. Credit Suisse First Boston last week announced it had lost \$250 million and BankAmerica was taken for \$220 million. Salomon Smith Barney, part of Travelers Group, on Monday revealed losses of \$150 million despite the closure of some of its riskiest bond trading operations under the new Travelers management earlier this year.

Separately, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the former colony's chief financial regulator, yesterday revealed that it owns nearly 9 per cent of HSBC Holdings. The HKMA disclosed its stake after spending an estimated \$6 billion to prop up the equity market in Hong Kong.

Commentary, page 23

Markets on roller-coaster New York bulls win break

By ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

INTERNATIONAL stock markets endured a roller-coaster ride yesterday as fears about the ability of the world's financial system to withstand the shocks from Russia and Asia continued to plague investors.

A morning rally in New York helped European markets reverse early losses prompted by Wall Street's 512-point fall on Monday.

The Dow Jones index again opened sharply lower, falling 137 points in early trading, before staging a remarkable 370-point turnaround to climb 234 points above its

opening price as European markets closed. The Dow later settled around 160 points higher at 7699.21.

The Dow's wild gyrations were repeated in London, where the market traded in a 144-point range. The FTSE 100 slumped 174 points in early trading before recovering on the back of Wall Street's rise to close down 80.3 points at 5169.1.

Other markets in Europe were also able to cut losses, with shares in France finishing just 0.15 per cent lower, while the Dax in Frankfurt closed down by 0.87 per cent.

Traders said the huge price swings reflected extreme market nervousness and were sceptical that

Wall Street's improvement marked a break from the move downwards. Economists are concerned that there has been no clear indication from G7 leaders that they are prepared to offer fresh help to Russia.

Earlier in the day, Tokyo also suffered some sharp market swings before wiping out early losses to record a 1.86 gain. However, market sentiment in the region was further damaged by the decision of Mahatir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, to impose currency controls. The Malaysian stock market plummeted 13 per cent in response.

Leading article, page 17

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

BULLS on Wall Street yesterday won a respite from the onslaught by bears as the Dow Jones index reversed some of the 512-point plunge that took it to 7,539 on Monday.

However, doom-sayers are far from beaten, with some even predicting that the Dow will fall to 5,000 by the end of this month.

Technically, the New York Stock Exchange dipped into a bear market yesterday for the first time since 1992. The chartists define a bear market as a decline from the market peak of more than 20 per cent. That

point was reached in morning trading when the Dow sank to 7,400, far below the bear mark of 7,469. The market peaked at 9,338 on July 17.

Richard Russell, the respected editor of the *Dow Theory Letter*, said: "History suggests that most bear markets wipe out half the gain of the preceding bull market. I am looking for it to fall now back to 5,000."

Mr Russell is a favourite among short-sellers, the money managers that bet on a downturn. These arch-bears are the most hated figures on Wall Street because their presence spells gloom for the rest of the market. Short-selling funds have been swamped with money by panicky in-

vestors. So far, however, the mainstream and the legions of small investors are keeping their nerve, cheered on by the market gurus of the big banks, who have the most to lose if the bull puts on his bear skin.

An aggressive statement by Abby Cohen, of Goldman Sachs, who still predicts a year-end Dow of 9,300, buoyed the market. She told investors to buy more shares because they are cheap, and raised the equity portion of her ideal portfolio from 65 per cent to 72. She was backed by other bullish gurus, including Douglas Cligott, of JP Morgan, who risk seeing their reputations ruined — along with their employers' profits.

Abbey in £600,000 charge

By CAROLINE MERRELL

ABBNEY Unit Trust Managers has been forced to pay out nearly £600,000 because of compliance failures.

The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), the fund managers' regulator, fined the company £150,000 and forced it to pay compensation of £168,000 to more than 7,000 customers.

As well as the fines and the compensation, Abbey has paid more than £272,000 in to the unit trusts affected and has changed its procedures.

Imro imposed the fine because Abbey Unit Trust Managers failed to carry out proper records; did not bank client money on time; did not execute customers' orders on time; did not despatch sale proceeds on time; and inadequately handled customers' complaints. The problems related to the company taking on more business than its administration could cope with.

Hydro and Southern Electric merge

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SCOTTISH HYDRO and Southern Electric yesterday surprised the power industry by announcing a £4.9 billion merger.

The deal creates a new powerhouse in the industry, with £1.5 billion at its disposal to expand through acquisition. The newly named Scottish and Southern Energy, which will have 3.3 million customers, is likely to be an aggressive bidder for the power stations of National Power and PowerGen when the Government forces the generators to sell some of their plants.

The merger is an all-share deal in which no premium will be paid. Shareholders in Southern, the slightly bigger business, will own 55 per cent of the new company. Scottish Hydro's shareholders are to retain their shares while Southern Electric investors will get one new Scottish and Southern Energy share for each share they own.

Hundreds of jobs will go in the merger as the companies close down Southern Electric's headquarters at Maidenhead, Berkshire.

The new company will be based in Perth, Tayside, which is Scottish Hydro's current

base. The companies said that the decision to base the business in Scotland was an economic one. However, it is understood that the Scottish Office would have raised objections to the deal if the Perth headquarters had been shut.

Both businesses said that they did not fear a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. ScottishPower has already set a precedent for a Scottish generator and power distributor acquiring an English regional electricity company when it bought Man-

web two years ago. Market share is also not thought to be an issue because the combined group will have only 12 per cent of the UK's generation market.

The merged company will be headed by Jim Forbes, the chief executive of Southern. Roger Young, chief executive of Scottish Hydro, said that he had already told his board that he wanted to quit next year. Mr Young will, however, become deputy chairman and is expected to retain a non-

executive role after he sheds his executive duties with the merged board next year.

Mr Forbes said the merger would enable the two businesses to expand rapidly. Both have previously said that they would be interested in buying power stations from National Power and PowerGen under the forced sale programme.

Mr Forbes said that there was now a "better chance of doing it than if we hadn't consummated this deal".

Directors of Southern Electric will realise more than £200,000 through the early release of gains from long-term incentive schemes. However, the merger conditions mean that they will realise only enough to cover tax liabilities.

The directors have said that they will continue to hold shares in the new business equal to their holding in Southern until maturity dates.

The merger means that none of the original 12 regional electricity companies in England and Wales is now independently owned. Southern was the last independent company after a failed attempt to merge with National Power and an unsuccessful bid to buy Southern Water.



Jim Forbes, of Southern Electric, and Roger Young, of Scottish Hydro, celebrate their deal

Boeing in shake-up after loss

FROM OLIVER AUGUST

BOEING, the world's biggest aerospace group, is replacing the head of its commercial aircraft division in a management shake-up following the \$2.6 billion loss from production problems.

Ron Woodard will be replaced by Alan Mulally, currently the head of the defence and space division.

The reason given for Mr Woodard's departure was the discovery of additional losses of several hundred million dollars at a Kansas plant for which he was responsible. He has been offered a more junior position but is still pondering his next move.

Mr Woodard has been blamed for severe logistical problems that caused Boeing to suspend production because of a shortage of manpower and components. Mr Mulally, 53, was responsible for the launch of the 777 airliner.

Commentary, page 23

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Mortgage lending reaches record high

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

MORTGAGE lending hit record levels in July while credit card borrowing remained strong, suggesting that the consumer sector remains buoyant. A separate manufacturing survey, however, depicted the sector as still mired in recession with output continuing to fall and unemployment rising. Economists said that the official figures added little to the immediate interest rate debate and that rates would remain on hold unless there was a further deterioration in the international economic environment.

Slight fall in house prices in August

HOUSE prices fell slightly in August, according to a monthly survey by the Halifax. But Britain's biggest mortgage lender said the drop did not signal the start of a property recession. The survey showed that the average price of a home rose by 5.3 per cent over the past year, but in August the market went into reverse and prices dropped 0.1 per cent compared with July.

A spokesman for the Halifax said: "This does not signal the start of a housing recession but does strengthen our belief that the market is only growing at a moderate rate." First-time buyers, who have faced prices rising faster than other house buyers, saw prices stay flat in August. The average price paid by a first-time buyer in August was £52,836, compared with £54,641 paid by people already in the house-owning chain.

The price of newly built homes rose rapidly over the past year, but the apparent price jump was due to a significant fall in prices last year. Halifax is standing by its earlier forecast that annual house price inflation for the last three months of the year will be about 5 per cent.

The futures markets have priced in a quarter-point cut in rates by the end of this year but most economists believe this remains too optimistic and that there will be no fall in rates until next spring. Mortgage lending rose by a record £2.6 million in July while new mortgage approvals remained high at 134,000. The Council of Mortgage Lenders, however, insisted that the figures did not point to a surge in housing market activity, but reflected widespread re-mortgaging and an easing in supply problems.

Michael Coogan, director-general of the CML, said: "This surprising lending does not herald the beginning of a boom, but is much more likely to show the housing market bottleneck is now easing." Overall consumer credit rose by £1.05 billion, slightly below the £1.2 billion recorded in June. The credit card lending component rose by £400 million pointing to robust spending in the prolonged summer sales. The annual rate of M0, the measure of narrow money supply, also increased by a healthy 6.2 per cent in August.

In contrast, the August purchasing managers' index showed overall manufacturing output falling to a six-year low with cheap imports increasingly reducing domestic sales. Output of consumer goods fell for the first time since 1995. Manufacturers also started to cut back stock levels, a move that will further undermine third-quarter output. There was also a continued decline in employment levels while prices fell sharply again pointing to further good news on the inflation front. However, the overall index edged up from the six-year low recorded in July providing tentative signs that the pace of decline in the sector has stabilised.



Anthony Habgood, left, and John Bason, finance director, unveiled "excellent results"

Bunzl buoyant despite slump in selling prices

By Robert Cole, City Correspondent

BUNZL, the packaging distributor, cigarette filter maker and paper manufacturer, has reported that the price of its paper and plastic raw materials has fallen sharply. The falls mean Bunzl's selling prices are also forced down. But despite the price deflation, Bunzl reported a strong increase in underlying profitability. Although pre-tax profits were flat at £62.8 million, operating profits from continuing businesses were 18 per cent

ahead at £66.7 million. The pre-tax result looked worse because Bunzl benefited from an exceptional gain on the disposal of businesses in 1997's comparable figures. Total sales rose from £846 million to £953 million. Anthony Habgood, the chairman, said: "This is an excellent set of results reflecting the fundamental strengthening of Bunzl's businesses and achieved despite a strong pound and severe price deflation."

The price at which Bunzl buys raw paper and plastic fell by more than many analysts expected but the financial results were in line with forecasts. The share price, however, was hit with the stock closing down 8.5p at 228p. Earnings per share, adjusted for the exceptional profits last time, rose 11 per cent to 9p. The half-time dividend is increased to 2.5p from 2.3p.

Tempus, page 24

Eighteen get £45m Singer windfall

By Richard Miles, Banking Correspondent

EIGHTEEN executives with Collins Stewart, the UK stockbroker that is 51 per cent owned by Singer & Friedlander, are to pocket £45 million after exercising their share options. Singer & Friedlander, an investment banking group, has agreed to buy the shares belonging to the Collins Stewart management, so gaining total control of the business. The group said that the deal would enhance annual profits by £6.2 million.

John Hodson, chief executive of Singer & Friedlander, said that the group had tied the executives into Collins Stewart by making them wait three years before they can take the final tranche of their £45 million windfall.

Profits for the half-year at Collins Stewart rose 82 per cent, contributing greatly to the 9 per cent improvement in Singer & Friedlander profits, to £31.6 million before taxes and exceptional items.

Carnegie, the Swedish broking firm of which Singer & Friedlander owns 55 per cent, recorded a 15 per cent fall in profits after an exceptionally good 1997. Much of the fall related to the strength of sterling, which has gained 22 per cent over the Swedish krona since 1995.

Although the investment management business put in a good show, profits from sales of retail funds fell, reflecting Singer & Friedlander's decision not to launch a new fund in the first half of 1998.

Mr Hodson confirmed that the group intended to sell its capital markets division at net asset value to its management after a series of losses.

Singer & Friedlander also said that it would seek shareholder approval for the right to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares, although Mr Hodson said that no decision had been taken as to whether the group would return capital to shareholders.

Earnings per share, excluding exceptional items, jumped 16 per cent to 7.2p. The interim dividend rises from 2.13p to 2.35p and is to be paid on November 2.

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Mayflower signs £10m German deal

MAYFLOWER took time out of its three-way battle to buy Dennis, the UK bus and coach company, to announce an acquisition in Germany. Mayflower, which is vying for control of Dennis with another UK company, Henvleys, is paying £10.4 million for RTA Business, the automotive and exhaust systems division of Roth Technik, a German engineering group. The deal follows last week's £15 million acquisition of a 40 per cent stake in US-based bus maker Metrotrans.

John Simpson, Mayflower chief executive, said: "Germany is the dominant automotive manufacturer in Europe and the acquisition of RTA is the perfect way to continue our European expansion." Last month Henvleys raised its bid for Dennis to £309 million after Mayflower's £260 million offer.

Perkins profit leap

PERKINS FOODS raised pre-tax profits from £14.1 million to £44.4 million in the six months to June 30, although the result includes a £33.6 million profit on the sale of discontinued operations. Operating profits rose from £7.1 million to £7.5 million on sales down from £342 million to £241 million. Sales on continuing activities rose from £113.6 million to £114 million. The shares fell 5p to 126p and the dividend remains unchanged at 1.8p a share.

Macro 4 suffers fall

MACRO 4, the independent software company that primarily serves the IBM mainframe market, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits to £10.06 million from £10.3 million in the year to June 30. Earnings were 33.7p a share (33.8p). The dividend rises to 26.1p a share from 25.2p, with a 15.9p final. The shares fell 25p to 435p yesterday. Ronnie Wilson, the new managing director, is conducting a strategic review after the retirement of Terry Kelly, who had been chairman since 1988.

Heritage rises by 26%

HERITAGE BATHROOMS raised pre-tax profits 26 per cent to £4.8 million on sales up 18 per cent to £22 million. Earnings rose from 14.4p to 18.3p a share, out of which the total dividend for the year rises from 6.4p to 7.8p after payment of a 5p final, up from 4.2p. Gary Lake, the chief executive, said: "The group is in good shape for the future with several initiatives which will provide new profit streams during the coming years." The shares remained unchanged at 210p.

Surge from Finlay

JAMES FINLAY, the food producer, raised pre-tax profits from £2.6 million to £8.6 million in the six months to June 30 on sales that grew from £79.7 million to £117.1 million. Earnings improved from 1.8p to 5.7p out of which the half-year dividend is increased from 1.3p to 2p. The shares rose 3p to 86p yesterday. Richard Muir, the chairman of James Finlay, said: "The directors are confident of a satisfactory outcome for the full year."

Bright for Eclipse

ECLIPSE BLINDS raised profits before tax by 10 per cent to £3.44 million in the six months to June 30 on sales up 8 per cent to £24 million. Earnings per share rose from 4.06p to 4.95p out of which the half-year dividend rises 10 per cent to 1.32p. Ted Black, chairman, said: "With a good performance in the first half we remain of the view that 1998 will show Eclipse continuing to make progress." The second half of the year is historically the strongest for trading at Eclipse Blinds.

PolyGram sale faces delay

THE auction for PolyGram Filmed Entertainment, maker of hits such as *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, looks like being delayed because major potential bidders will not be ready by the present deadline (Raymond Snoddy writes). Goldman Sachs, the merchant bank orchestrating the sale, has set a deadline of September 11 for the submission of binding bids for the company which is being sold off by Seagram.

Contenders include EMI, Carlton Communications, Canal Plus of France and MGM

of the US. EMI cannot submit a bid by September 11 because it does not have a board meeting before that and wants time to formalise its position. There is also the possibility that Canal Plus may not be in a position to meet the deadline either.

Falling housing market fails to dent Persimmon

By Rachel Bridge

PERSIMMON, the UK's third largest housebuilder, shrugged off growing concerns about the state of the housing market yesterday with a 20 per cent rise in half-year pre-tax profits to £23.3 million and the news that its sales remained buoyant outside the London area.

Duncan Davidson, chairman, said: "Sales have levelled off in the South East in the area immediately around London, but out in the regions - in the Midlands, in the North, in Scotland and in Wales - our sales are still going very well. We are still finding plenty of buyers for our houses at good prices."



Davidson: full of confidence

"We expect the market to remain at these levels throughout the autumn and therefore have confidence in our results for the full year." Shares in the group, which is increasing its interim dividend from 3.1p to 3.3p, rose by 6.5p to 146p. The average sales price of a Persimmon house increased from £79,969 to £86,685 and profit per unit increased by 23 per cent from £7,300 to £9,009. The group said it was comfortable with a gearing rise from 24 per cent to 30 per cent.

Tempus, page 24

TOURIST RATES			
	Bank Buys	Bank Sells	
Australia \$	2.97	2.79	
Austria Sch	21.54	19.98	
Belgium F	63.47	58.51	
Canada \$	2.710	2.522	
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9029	0.8314	
Denmark Kr	11.78	10.87	
Egypt	9.91	9.30	
Finland Mk	9.44	8.69	
France F	10.28	9.48	
Germany Dm	3.083	2.841	
Greece Dr	327	468	
Hong Kong \$	13.84	12.64	
India Rs	151	111	
Ireland P	1.2190	1.1300	
Japan Yen	6.78	6.15	
Spain Ptas	166	152	
Switzerland Sfr	2.551	2.323	
Taiwan Nts	48.910	46.760	
USA \$	1.787	1.644	

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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Rubicon a bid by Ap

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Banks transmit market plague



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Barclays. Now there's a bank you can rely on to keep up tradition. Shareholders stumped up tens of millions over the past two years to support Martin Taylor's policy of closing down securities operations or getting rid of them at whatever cost. A smart move in the Far East.

Yet now a residual subsidiary, lurking under the discreet name Barclays Capital, has managed to lose a potential £250 million in Russia, mostly in securities. A further £75 million has been provided for against knock-on losses from Russia's insolvency in other markets, also on securities.

Traders at Barclays Capital had, it seemed, bought high-yield Russian GKO, hedged the currency and sat back to earn high returns on sovereign debt. The idea that the high returns might imply a proportionately high risk of default does not seem to have occurred. Nor did they keep reminding themselves, it seems, that a hedge against the rouble is only as good as the Russian bank that has guaranteed it. In the event, Russia's default has whipped the rug from under high-yield public sector debt securities all round the world.

Mr Taylor is a chastened man. And so he might be. Having tried to refocus Barclays on "low-risk" domestic retail business, he has discovered what so many outsiders discovered before him. Bankers are infinitely creative in

finding new ways to lose money, if not in much else.

Even so, Barclays's outsider has undoubtedly stopped shareholders losing nearly as much as shareholders of other banks. Russia was a lightweight interest for most UK banks.

In Tokyo, Paris, Frankfurt and in North America, the progressive westward collapse of one market and one economy after another is exacting a fearful toll on banks. Their losses have become one of the principal routes to transmit recession from country to country and from continent to continent.

Commodity prices are the other. Falling Asian demand slashed oil prices and thereby stretched Russia's already tightly stretched foreign exchange earnings. South Africa is now suffering from the ensuing plunge in gold prices. The oil glut hit Venezuela and Mexico and is cutting growth across Latin America. That means heavy loan losses again for US banks, fear on Wall Street, more share price falls and instant billions of extra bank losses in Japan.

If this is a market correction in North America and Europe, it needs to stop soon. This summer's ructions are nothing like the 1987 crash. That adjustment was the result of financial imbalances that had built up between the principal economies, reflected in an over-strong dollar.

We now face something more serious. The progressive spread of recession from Japan via the financial markets. Those banks trying to recoup their losses on the bear track are just digging us all into a deeper hole.

Euro trundles on to the brink

The euro, it seems, will face its first critical test before it starts. European central bankers meeting in Frankfurt must have hoped that the single currency would be well set before it met one of those intense financial storms that we all vainly hope will never recur.

Instead, the odds are that the euro will be born in chaos. The danger of early mistakes is frightening. Naturally, protagonists see this as one more reason to press resolutely ahead while sceptics urge right-thinking folk to stop before it is too late. Unusually, Brussels may be right.

In today's el Niño financial markets, you would not like children to see what happens to the lira, peseta or punt if the euro's launch is put off. In this climate, delay means cancellation.

The bankers should still be worried. Without any doubt, the greater Asian crash has shown that the arrangements made for running the euro are both inadequate and inflexible. Unless they are changed, or at least "re-interpreted", euroland could easily turn out to be a pillar of stability sinking into the mire.

Culturally, the ECB lacks the leeway to act pre-emptively in periods of market turmoil. Euro-land may then need the purs-strings loosening, even if other signals still point towards infla-

tion. In orthodox banking circles, concerted central bank largesse after the 1987 crash is now seen as an emotional, political overreaction. This thinking spells danger. Imagine the Bank of England looking at the latest acceleration of growth in the money supply and concluding that interest rates have to go up if inflation is to be kept on target. You may not even have to imagine it.

Unbalanced inflation targets are even more dangerous if they are matched by rules that stop governments from using fiscal measures to compensate. Doubtless, a way would be found round the limit on budget deficits, but probably too late to forestall needless economic damage from a collapse in markets.

Nor should the guardians of the euro scoff at limits on foreign exchange speculation, of the kind being hatched in Asian markets. The trading value of the euro is critical for business in euroland. Treating a strong euro as a sta-

tus symbol is an easy trap when, in all directions, other currencies are falling. Wim Duisenberg and his ECB colleagues should be prepared to risk a brief upturn in inflation to stop the euro soaring. Sadly, that is an idea most of them are culturally incapable of understanding.

Tortoise power wins through

There is something of the tortoise beating the hare about Scottish Hydro's merger with Southern Electric.

Both companies are now poised to form the UK's third biggest energy business with a combination of generation and supply - and importantly a combined financial firepower of £1.5 billion. Imminent forced sales of power stations by National Power and PowerGen could help the new Scottish and Southern Energy to propel itself into a far stronger position than either of those two.

Who would have thought a couple of years ago, when National Power and PowerGen had embarked on their ill-fated race to buy regional companies, when

ScottishPower was embarking on its compulsive buying spree, that the seemingly modest and unambitious Scottish Hydro could manoeuvre to a position to win the power race?

National Power, the once giant generator, will be trimmed along with PowerGen, and is struggling to find a strategy to pep up its share price. PowerGen's chief executive Ed Wallis has made it clear he will sell his granny to get approval to buy the regional company he has already forked out for - a situation that leaves him a hostage to any demands made by Peter Mandelson.

Another advantage of Scottish Hydro's merger is that it is just that: a merger in which no premium was paid. Amid rampant uncertainty in the market that could be a very valuable deal.

Boeing going

DISCOVERY of a few hundred million dollars more of losses has finally allowed Boeing to fire the head of its civil aircraft division, which lost \$2.6 billion through production snarl-ups of such breathtaking incompetence that the main production line had to be shut for a month when orders were at a record. For many months, the board has held out against the vulgarity of assigning individual blame. It did not occur to the directors, evidently, that the only alternative was for them all to resign.

Rubicon agrees £207m bid by Applied Power

By Rachel Bridge

RUBICON, the electrical engineering group, yesterday revealed it had agreed to a £207 million cash bid from Applied Power, the American tool and equipment manufacturer.

The proposed takeover would mark Applied Power's second acquisition in Britain this year after its purchase of Vero group in June for £115 million.

Under the offer, shareholders in Rubicon will receive 23p in cash for each ordinary share they hold, representing a 47 per cent premium over Rubicon's last trading price on Friday. Preference shareholders will receive 50p in cash. Shareholders are also being offered a guaranteed loan note as an alternative.

Seven Rubicon directors and their families, who are

unanimously recommending the deal, stand to share a cash windfall of £14.9 million in return for their combined 7.2 per cent stake in the company if the takeover is approved by shareholders.

Tim Wightman, chief executive, said: "Rubicon has been looking at its strategy for becoming a global player in the electronic enclosures marketplace. It recognised that it had to grow faster than it could do organically - it either had to buy something in the States or it had to become part of a larger group. Looking at the opportunities we felt that this was the most satisfactory one from the point of view of the company and the shareholders."

News of the agreed offer pushed up Rubicon's share price by 41 per cent to 225p.

The agreed bid comes six months after Rubicon announced the disposal of its lead products and specialist castings divisions for £61.7 million in order to wipe out its debt and focus on strengthening its electronic services division.

Richard Sim, chairman, president and chief executive of Applied Power, said that the acquisition of Rubicon would strengthen its position in the electronic equipment market.

He said: "Over the last two years Applied Power has assembled a worldwide custom enclosures business, building upon its existing engineering, manufacturing, quality assurance and logistics competencies. The acquisition of Rubicon firmly establishes Applied Power as a leading global pro-

vider of custom enclosure systems for electronic equipment, broadens our capabilities in Europe and enhances our credibility with key customers in the telecommunications, high-density storage, automatic teller machine and computer industries."

City analysts said that Applied Power was paying a full price for Rubicon given the state of the stock market, with the £207 million price tag valuing the company at 13 times the current year's pre-tax forecast of £20.2 million.

One said: "Three weeks ago Rubicon could maybe have got 260p or 270p a share but there is so much concern out there you can't really expect much more than the current offer unless someone else comes into play."

Abbey to extend network

ABBEY NATIONAL is to open branches in a further 20 Safeway stores after a 12-month trial revealed strong demand for banking services from supermarket shoppers (Richard Miles writes).

The expansion, which will create 160 jobs, will complement rather than replace Abbey's 800-strong branch network, said Andrew Pople, managing director of the retail division.

Mr Pople said the in-store branches will provide a range of services, including jointly branded products such as the ABC payment card. He added that the Safeway savings account had attracted in excess of £600 million. "It is not inconceivable that banking services will become part of the core franchise of supermarkets," he said.

Shell Nigerian oil production 'virtually halted'

By Carl Mortished

SHELL is losing up to 800,000 barrels per day of production in Nigeria, where the oil company has been compelled to declare *force majeure* at both the Forcados and Bonny oil terminals.

A leak at the Forcados terminal on August 22 caused a shutdown for repairs. Meanwhile, sabotage by youths in the volatile Nembe district caused a closure at Bonny. Output from Nigeria's two main oil exporting terminals has virtually ceased. Shell confirmed that it has been losing close to its entire Nigerian production of up to 800,000 barrels per day.

A lengthy stoppage will have serious implications for Nigeria, which depends on oil exports for most of its foreign exchange earnings. Revenues are already suffering as a re-

sult of the collapse in the oil price and production cutbacks agreed by Opec members.

Shares in Cairn, the oil exploration group, fell a further 7 per cent yesterday after the company revealed that mechanical breakdown at an offshore tanker loading facility in India would shut down production for 60 days.

Cairn said that 1.1 million barrels would be lost at the Ravva field for every month the single-buoy mooring facility was out of action. Cairn's share price plunged from 160p last week over concerns that its natural gas strategy in Bangladesh had been undermined by the Government's decision to slow down the award of key licences. Cairn is the operator of the Ravva field with a 22 per cent interest.

London Bridge falls

SHARES in London Bridge Software, which supplies the credit risk management industry, fell from £12.12 to 950p yesterday despite a doubling of profits and a promising statement on prospects (George Sivell writes).

Pre-tax profits rose from £953,000 to £2.7 million in the six months to June 30 on sales up from £4.1 million to £8 million. Earnings rose from 2.51p to 6.31p out of which a maiden interim dividend of 1.5p a share will be paid.

Gordon Crawford, the chairman, said: "I anticipate that revenues will grow significantly during the current year."

Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, expects £8.3 million pre-tax profits for the full year and £12.3 million for the following year.



Building on success: Don Godson, left, with Harry Sheridan, finance director of CRH

CRH predicts UK slowdown

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

DON GODSON, chief executive of CRH, the building materials group, said he expected a slowdown in the UK market where the company owns Keyline, the builders' merchant.

CRH yesterday reported a 31 per cent rise in half-year pre-tax profits to Ir£85.2 million (£75 million), mainly due to a doubling in profits from the US and continued strength in the Irish Republic where CRH has a dominant position.

Mr Godson was sceptical about prospects for the UK. The forecast from Eurocon-

struct is 3.5 per cent growth but I would be surprised if it was as high as that.

Profits from the UK were up from Ir£10 million to Ir£13.6 million as Keyline secured a 6 per cent organic sales increase. Mr Godson said that CRH had received offers for the business but was in no mood to sell. "There is no pressing need for cash," he said.

CRH is expecting a further 2 per cent decline in the German market while France is beginning to emerge from recession. Mr Godson said that the com-

pany was more concerned about Poland where recent investment has put CRH into second position in Polish cement. After a period of strong growth, prices in Poland are beginning to weaken, in part due to lack of export opportunities to Germany, which previously took 2-3 million tonnes per year.

Earnings per share rose 27 per cent to Ir£16.7p and the interim dividend is up 16 per cent to Ir4p.

Tempus, page 24

BT looks at IBM phone division

From Oliver August in New York

BRITISH TELECOM is considering buying IBM's Internet and telephone system in a \$4 billion (£2.4 billion) attempt finally to enter the US market as a direct competitor to WorldCom and MCI.

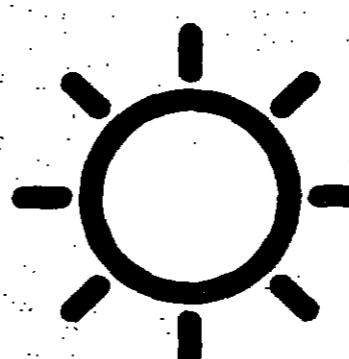
IBM is seeking buyers for its Global Network division, which has \$2 billion in annual revenues and handles phone and data services for 30,000 corporate customers.

A BT spokesman declined to comment on negotiations with IBM, but said: "We receive prospectuses for companies every day and keep a keen eye on developments."


Analysts suggested that Global Network would be a good fit with BT's Concert, but other telecoms companies, including Cable & Wireless, may enter the auction.

IBM is thought to have approached AT&T, with which BT struck an alliance in July to combat the \$40 billion link-up of WorldCom and MCI. The merger gives the new telecoms group a dominant position in the Internet market. WorldCom outbid BT to acquire MCI last year.

IBM decided to sell the telecoms division after concluding that it would be too costly to compete with WorldCom-MCI and AT&T. Maintenance on the cable network is thought to cost \$200 million a year. IBM is belatedly adopting streamlining after the recovery of its main computer business.



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All change for Blackpool Tower

By Dominic Walsh

FIRST LEISURE confirmed yesterday that it has sold the bulk of its resorts division, including Blackpool Tower, to Trevor Hemmings, the former Pontin's boss, for £74 million. The deal does not include Trecco Bay caravan park in South Wales, the division's most profitable business, which is being retained.

Although the cash consideration is slightly below the net asset value of £77.3 million, Michael Grade, First Leisure's chairman, said he was delighted with the result.

"If you applied the same exit multiple to Trecco Bay you would get a total value of just over £109 million, which is well ahead of what the market was expecting," he said.

Mr Hemmings, who is said to have spent childhood holidays in Blackpool, has completed the deal through Leisure Parks Limited, a new vehicle in which his family interests have a controlling stake. His backers include Electra Fleming and the Bank of Scotland.

Leisure Parks is expected to retain the bulk of the business's 1,000 employees, although Roy Page, its managing director,

has left after his management buyout bid was defeated by Mr Hemmings.

In a trading update covering the 16 weeks to August 23, Mr Grade admitted that, while sales from health and fitness clubs were 16 per cent up on a comparable basis, elsewhere there were "no tangible signs of growth". Comparable sales from the family entertainment division were down 3 per cent, while nightclubs and bars were down 2 per cent. Resorts were down 11 per cent.

The shares, already well down on their June peak of 436½p, shed another 16½p to 233½p.

SEPTEMBER 2

ROUNDUP

signs man deal

profit leap

suffers fall

rises by 26%

Finlay

Eclipse

GUINNESS

BISMAN

ERY ORDER

FREE

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

FTSE pulls back from lows as investors hold nerve

CITY investors fought the sort of rearguard action that the England cricket team can only dream about.



A better-skilled performance by shares kept traders tense for most of the day. The FTSE closed with losses halved

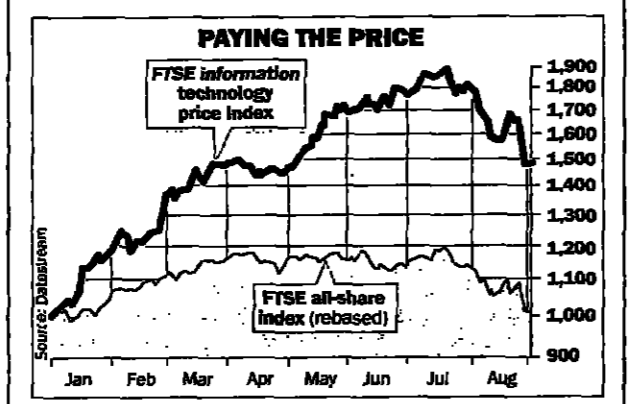
lifted Rubicon Group 65p to 25p. The terms, worth 235p a share, value the electrical engineer at £207 million.

Faced with losses of more than 500 points in the Dow Jones industrial average overnight, they faced an uphill struggle when the dealings resumed after the Bank Holiday weekend.

Alliance & Leicester was also hit, falling 83p to 831p despite having no exposure whatever to Russia.

The share rights issue from JJB Sports has not gone down well. The underlying price tumbled further 38p to 39p yesterday.

The FTSE 100 index, down 173 at its low point, eventually closed 80.3 lower at 5,691.1 with healthy recovery but a net loss of 160 points as the market faced up to a mixed performance from the Far East while anxiously waiting for the resumption of trading in New York.



INFORMATION and technology shares took a drubbing yesterday.

News of a bid approach lifted CrestaCare 5p to 35p. The healthcare provider says the talks could lead to a bid worth 40p a share.

Mark & Spencer rose 20p to 541p with the help of a "buy" recommendation from Panmure Gordon, the broker, while Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, was a buyer of Kingfisher, up 28p to 518p.

Roger Philips at Granville Markets, the broker, says: "Information and technology companies are more highly rated. They are the first to get hit. The highest-rated companies are, in turn, the worst hit and there is evidence that institutions are choosing to lock in a paper profit."

In the futures pit, the December series of the long bond fell £0.67 to £111.90 as a total of 54,000 contracts were completed.

Table with columns: COCOM, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION. Includes various market data points.

Table with columns: LIFFE, ICIS-LOR, GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES, LIFFE WHEAT, LIFFE BARLEY, LIFFE POTATO, RUBBER, GAS OIL, BRENT, LONDON METAL EXCHANGE. Includes various market data points.

Table with columns: LIFFE OPTIONS, LIFFE FUTURES, LIFFE SPREADS. Includes various market data points.

Table with columns: LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES. Includes various market data points.

Table with columns: MONEY RATES (%), EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%), GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co), STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES. Includes various market data points.

MAJOR INDICES

Table listing major indices: New York (Dow Jones, S&P Composite), Tokyo (Nikkei Average), Hong Kong (Hang Seng), Amsterdam (AEX Index), Sydney (ASX), Frankfurt (DAX), Singapore (Straits), Brussels (BEL20), Paris (CAC-40), Zurich (SIX Gen), London (FTSE 100, FTSE 250, FTSE 1000, FTSE Europe 100, FTSE All-Share, FTSE Non Financials, FTSE Fixed Interest, FTSE Govt. Secs, Barclays, SEAQ Volume, US (S&P 500, Dow Jones Industrial, Nikkei), German Mark (DAX), Exchange Index, RPI, RPI (163.0 Jul (3.5%) Jan 1987-100), RPI (160.5 Jul (2.6%) Jan 1987-100).

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues: Chaucer A Wts, Coca-Cola (160), Enterprise Cap B Pf, Firestone Diamonds, GBCIT Secs Zero Div, Galt Br Inc & Gwth, Galt Br Income, Galt Br Income, InterLink Foods, Kiln, MEPC Non Com P/B, Menor Grp, Murray Extra Rtn Cap, Mry Extra Rtn Inc, Murray Extra Rtn Div, Soda Petroleum, SuperLife, Synd Cap Ws 98/02, Torstar, Tribune IT Index, Walker Greenbank B, Winstlow Group.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table listing rights issues: Cadore n/p (35) 009.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table listing major changes: RISES: Rubicon, GEC, Marks Spencer, Diageo, MEPC, Royal Bank Scot, Bellway, Boots, Debenhams, Lloyds, Network Tech, Diagonal, COLT Telecom, APIM Holdings, Courts Furnish, Danka Bus Systems, BMD, Energis, Sealed App, PSD. FALLS: Network Tech, Diagonal, COLT Telecom, APIM Holdings, Courts Furnish, Danka Bus Systems, BMD, Energis, Sealed App, PSD.

Closing Prices Page 26

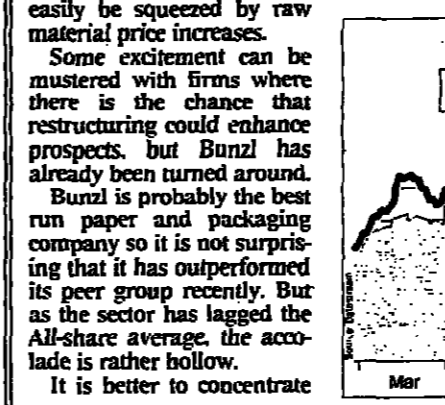
TEMPUS Material difference

THE strength of the Irish economy delivered another set of good results to nerve-racked UK investors yesterday. Not only that, but it was from a company occupying an industry that UK investors may find distinctly malodorous.

acknowledges some pricing pressure as interlopers try to get some action. It is only the fringes of the CRH empire that look vulnerable to financial shocks.

Bunzl THE problem facing holders of Bunzl shares is that the stock is lumped together with paper and packaging companies.

modity product and can maintain margins. Its ability to raise profits in the face of raw material price deflation is also attractive.



on bunzl's defensive qualities in these troubled times.

having fallen by almost half in the past three months to the point where they trade 20 per cent below net asset value and on a prospective p/e ratio of just six times.

Persimmon

THE message from Persimmon is clear. Prophets of doom who warn of imminent meltdown in the UK housing market should try looking beyond the overheated South East before writing off the entire sector as a dead loss.

ish, because nearly half of its profits derive from Carnegie. That business, despite its American-sounding name, is a leading Scandinavian stockbroker.

Closing Prices Page 26

DOLLAR RATES

Table listing dollar rates for various currencies: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Argentina, Australia dollar, Bahraini dinar, Bangladeshi taka, Chinese yuan, Cyprus pound, Czech koruna, Greek drachma, Hong Kong dollar, Indian rupee, Indonesian rupiah, Japanese yen, Korean won, Kuwaiti dinar, Malaysian ringgit, New Zealand dollar, Norwegian krone, Saudi Arabian riyal, Singapore dollar, South African rand, Swiss franc, U.S. dollar, U.S. dollar, U.S. dollar.

WALL STREET

Table listing Wall Street market data: S&P 500, Dow Jones, Nasdaq, NYSE, etc.

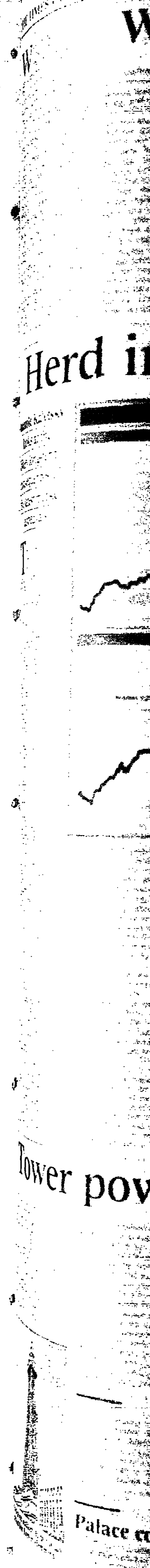
OTHER STERLING

Table listing other sterling rates: Argentina peso, Australian dollar, Bahraini dinar, Bangladeshi taka, Chinese yuan, Cyprus pound, Czech koruna, Greek drachma, Hong Kong dollar, Indian rupee, Indonesian rupiah, Japanese yen, Korean won, Kuwaiti dinar, Malaysian ringgit, New Zealand dollar, Norwegian krone, Saudi Arabian riyal, Singapore dollar, South African rand, Swiss franc, U.S. dollar, U.S. dollar, U.S. dollar.

FTSE VOLUMES

Table listing FTSE volumes for various sectors: ASX, BHP, BOC, BT, etc.

Table listing various market data points: ASX, BHP, BOC, BT, etc.



West winces as the bitten bite back

Western bankers and investors are furious with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority for daring to meddle in its own financial markets to fend off unwelcome speculation. Without a level playing field, they argue, investors will simply not bother with Hong Kong as a destination for their money in future and Hong Kong will decline into economic oblivion as a result.

It is difficult not to be cynical when the words "level playing field" are deployed. Playground would be more appropriate. When bankers complain about the HKMA's determined bear squeeze, which has lifted the Hang Seng index by 17.6 per cent in a fortnight, what they are actually saying is that, having enjoyed huge returns over the past few years, they now want a risk-free exit route. More than that, if they have lost a bit of money in the last, frothy leg of the bull market, they want the freedom to do whatever damage they can to the host nation in order to mitigate their losses.

Many western banks (not just

the shadowy hedge funds that have become the clichéd culprit of tabloid headlines) piled into Hong Kong, and elsewhere in Asia, with little more reason than that everyone else was doing the same and that their shareholders would hold them to account if they didn't seek the same high returns, whatever the risk. Very little analysis or thought went into many of these "investment decisions".

When things started to go wrong, banks were guilty, yet again, of a lack of judgment and, despite glaringly obvious warnings from Thailand as early as July last year, stayed in the markets hoping for that extra few percentage points of return.

In the language of the casino, western investors in emerging markets have been no more astute than the Las Vegas stocker who throws his money around in blind

hope and is then too weak to call it quits even after he has lost his shirt. The ultimate naivety, however, is expecting the casino management not to turn the tables and punish such human frailty.

Of course, the reason that international investors are so flabbergasted by Hong Kong's defence of its markets is that the rules of the international financial markets game have long been stacked in favour of the punter with a wodge of money. The ideology of free markets, tearing down capital controls and opening markets to foreign investment, has taken hold to such a degree that even a temporary and meticulously explained defence of its interests by Hong Kong is regarded as a dangerous step back into the dark ages.

Bankers who argue that the likes of Hong Kong change the rules for international investment

at their peril may be making another misjudgment. Even in a world controlled by the high-rollers, the situation can become so desperate for developing economies that the balance of power changes. The man who has nothing to lose gains a desperate strength.

Hong Kong, already deeply wounded by a near 35 per cent drop in its stock market, which has helped to plunge its economy into

a recession, probably finds little resonance in the threat of an international investment strike. It knows that, however willingly it lays its markets open for more damage, investors will not consider Hong Kong to be a candidate for genuine, economy-enhancing investment for a long time. If the only investment activity on offer is harmful, why not stop it?

Mahathir Mohamad, Malaysia's Prime Minister, long the scourge of international speculators, yesterday imposed new rules stipulating that foreign investors could continue to buy Malaysian shares, but that they would have to keep their investment in the country for at least a year.

David Carse, deputy chief executive of the HKMA, told a lunchtime audience of bankers in London yesterday that "if anything, the Hong Kong markets have been too free,

too liable to be exploited by those investors who are not prepared to play the rules of the game".

That remark clearly suggests that developing economies, at least those with some political confidence and leadership, are no longer prepared to accept that there is only one game in town: the one dominated by the hedge funds and bank treasuries of the West. It is a sentiment likely to find far more threatening echoes elsewhere.

Russia's unilateral debt moratorium and rescheduling could, as Christopher Wood of Santander Investment points out, prove to be a seminal development for the universe of emerging debt. "There is little reason why other Asian governments should not now consider the possibility of following the Russian example, or at least raise their negotiating leverage by threatening to do so."

It is now, when so many emerging markets have not just peered into the abyss, but fallen in, that the real threat shifts to the developed economies and not just because there could be more debt defaults on the way and many more swingeing losses for banks.

Stephen Lewis, of Monument Derivatives, yesterday highlighted the fact that the knock-on effects of the crisis in emerging markets are serious enough to have forced the Italian central bank to prop up the lira. This is despite the fact that in only four months, the Italian currency is to be subsumed into the euro, a fact that should have given it more than adequate protection.

The European Central Bank has for months been confident that the euro is now safe from a full-frontal assault from speculators. Perhaps the lira will get over its current wobble, but has the ECB got a game-plan for tackling a different kind of pre-euro crisis with recession rolling in from the East, moving down euro-bloc banks as it goes? The hurricane is moving westwards.



JANET BUSH

Herd instinct also rules with the bears

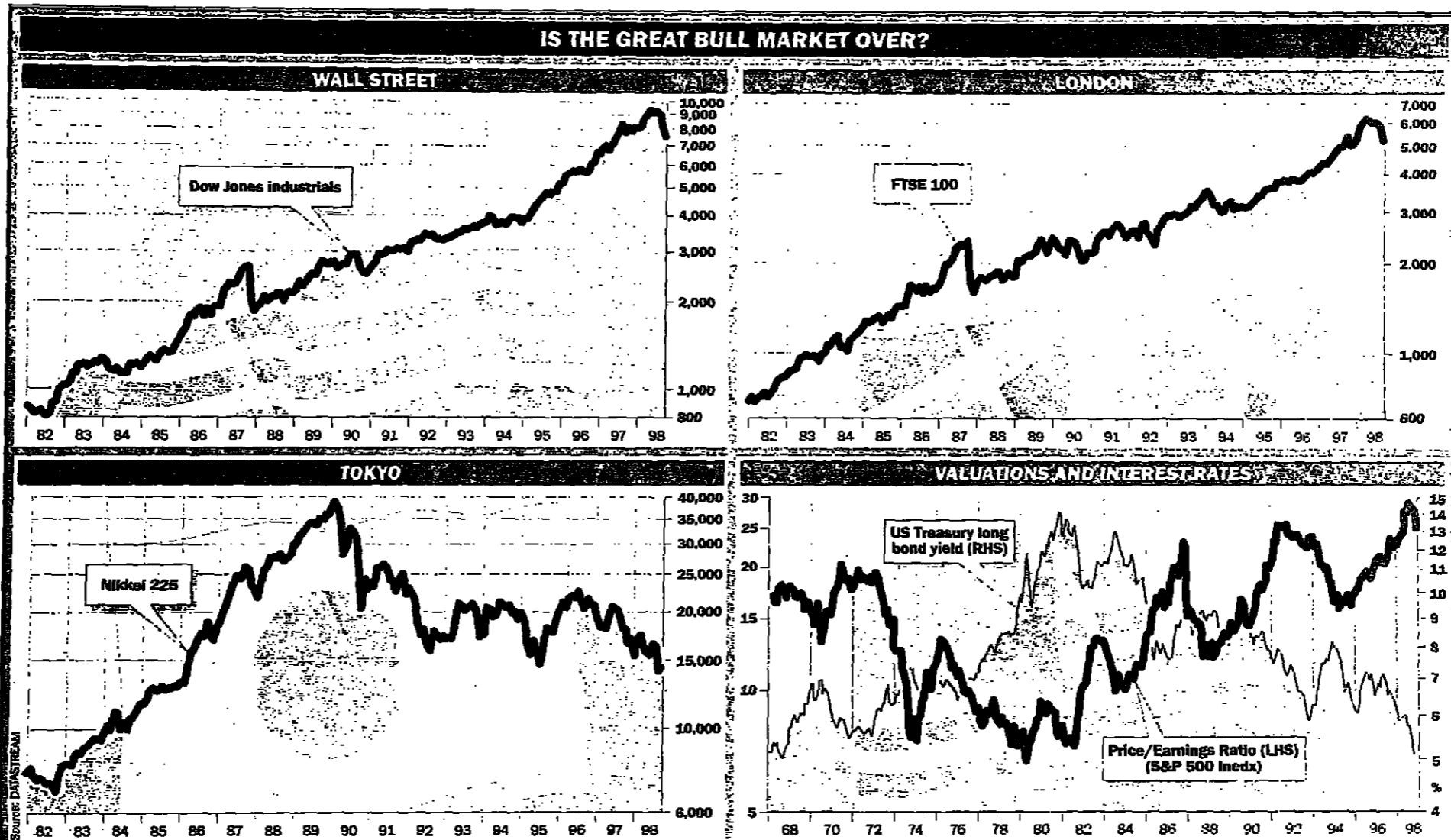
Anatole Kaletsky looks at the likely long-term consequences of the latest market upheavals

The long-dreaded bear market in American, British and European shares has finally started. Though Monday's mini-crash on Wall Street was followed by a rebound in Tokyo and only modest declines in London, Frankfurt and Paris, this week's upheaval is likely to have a much bigger and more enduring impact than the "crashette" that occurred in October last year.

At a time like this, investor psychology and trend-following herd behaviour are much more important than the so-called economic fundamentals. And after Monday's plunge, almost every indicator of market trends and investors' mass-psychology monitored by such leading technical analysts as Brian Marber and David Fuller in London, have been screaming "bear market".

On their own, such psychological factors would not, of course, be conclusive. What now makes the technical warnings worth heeding is that the fundamental condition of the world economy has been pointing to lower share prices at least since the summer of last year, when the Dow Jones industrial average suddenly soared from 7,000 to 8,000, the FTSE 100 jumped above 5,000 and other European markets took off even more steeply into the stratosphere. Arguably, in fact, shares had become overvalued even before that. It was in December 1996, when the Dow was at 6,000, that Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board gave warning that investors might be suffering from "irrational exuberance".

In pushing the Dow through 8,000, Wall Street was clearly embarking on a high-risk gamble — and other Western markets were broadly following suit. On average, the shares of large American companies were being valued at 25 times their annual earnings, an extraordinarily high level which had never, in the past, been sustained for long (see bottom right chart). Invest-



ors had several pretexts for pushing prices to these risky levels, above all the expectation of rising profits and low interest rates. But such arguments were never likely to sustain these lofty valuations forever, especially since many of the leading technology shares, both in America and Europe, were valued at much more exotic levels of 60 or 70 times earnings.

Such high valuations could not be justified by conventional economic analysis. Their true explanation was speculative psychology. Most investors believed that the market was too expensive, but they also believed that it would become even more expensive before it finally crashed. This belief was correct, but it rested on a dangerously arrogant assumption known in the markets as the Theory of the Bigger Fool — "I may seem a fool to pay this price, but tomorrow a bigger fool will come along and pay even more". Those who managed to time

their entrances and exits exactly right made handsome profits. But many investors have themselves ended up as the Bigger Fools.

The importance of the Bigger Fool theory in fuelling the past year's advance in Western stock markets accounts for the suddenness of the current setback and suggests why things are unlikely to get much better before they get even worse. Because of the nature of Monday's collapse on Wall Street — a very steep and sudden fall in the last hour of trading — there must be many frustrated sellers who missed their chance to take profits out of the market. Since many investors now believe in their hearts that the market is unlikely to hit new highs, every market rally will be used as an opportunity to sell out.

Instead of the slogan that sustained the bull market through every correction — "buy on dips" — the new bearish catchphrase will be "sell on rallies". An ominously similar

psychology prevailed in the days immediately before the great Wall Street crashes of 1929 and 1929, when every attempt by the markets to rise hit a wall of selling until the chaotic climax wiped out most investors' profits in a single day. This does not mean that the present bear market will produce a drama comparable to the one-day collapse on Black Monday (although such a climax remains a distinct possibility).

But whether the bear market proves short and vicious or a long, grinding affair, the total fall in American and European equity prices is likely to be at least comparable to the 35 per cent loss in 1987. One simple way at arriving at this conclusion is a back of the envelope calculation on share valuations and corporate profits.

Assume for the moment that the economic damage done by a bear market would not lead to anything worse than a year

of unchanged corporate profits. For US equities to become reasonably cheap, the price-earnings ratio on the Standard & Poor's 500, the most important index of US big company shares, would have to fall to well below 20. Last Friday this ratio was 26. Assuming no increase in earnings from the past year to the next one, share prices would have to fall by 23 per cent from Friday's level to reduce the PE ratio to 20. That would mean 6,200 on the Dow and imply a total peak-to-trough fall of 33 per cent, similar to 1987. A fall like this would bring prices back to about the level of early 1997, from which the latest and wildest phase of the great bull market was launched. European markets, would probably suffer similar losses.

What would be the economic consequences of such a moderate bear market? The loss of wealth would obviously reduce demand by diminishing savings, reducing loan collateral and by undermining con-

sumer and business confidence. But, unlike Tokyo in 1989 and Wall Street in 1929, speculative stock market gains have not been used extensively as collateral for consumer or business loans, even in America. This suggests that a credit implosion is unlikely unless the bear market in equities triggers a crash in property values. Only in that case would collateral be really hit, threatening a Japanese-style credit implosion.

A sharp fall in equity prices would also disrupt other financial markets. But these secondary effects will cut both ways. On the positive side, interest rates would obviously be lower than otherwise. On the negative side, there could be some damaging spillover into property prices, especially in cities such as London. With large financial sectors. But whether the falling demand from financial tenants and their employees overwhelms the benefits of lower interest rates remains to be seen. The experience of the

late 1980s suggests that an equity bear market initially pushes more money into the "safe haven" of real estate.

A more serious source of financial disruption could be through exchange rates. The key question is whether the dollar and the pound would crash alongside world equity markets. Consumers and companies in Britain and America

are most reliant on equity savings and financing. These are also the two economies most dependent on financial services. Thus both the dollar and pound are likely to face downward pressure if stock markets continue to fall.

There is, however, a big difference between the two. If the dollar fell sharply alongside Wall Street, the impact on the world economy could be very damaging, since a lower dollar would further depress the two major economies which are already suffering from the weakest domestic demand — Japan and Germany. Neither of these countries would be able or willing to fill the void in world demand created if a weak dollar choked off America's appetite for foreign goods.

The result of a dollar devaluation, combined with a setback in world markets, would be to maximise the pressures on the world economy's weakest points. For this very reason, the new European Central Bank would probably do its utmost to prevent the mark and the euro from rising too sharply against the dollar in the event of a serious bear market — if necessary by cutting interest rates more aggressively than the US Fed.

The pound, by contrast, would not be underpinned in this way. Far from supporting sterling, the ECB would be indifferent, while the Bank of England would probably welcome a weaker pound in the potentially deflationary environment created by a stock market crash. In this sense the bear market could actually prove a blessing in disguise for Britain's manufacturers and exporters, provided neither the fall in equities nor the fall in the pound goes too far. Those are, of course, crucial provisos but at present they seem likely to be fulfilled.

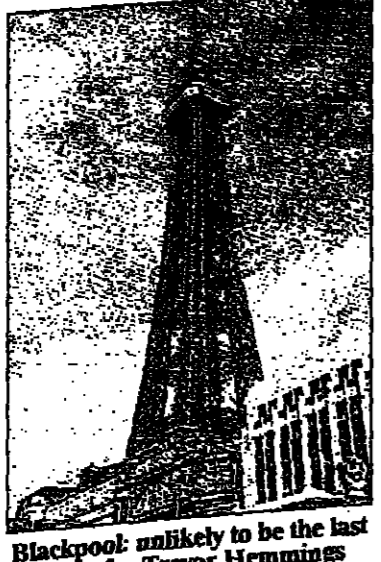
Tower power

THE new owner of Blackpool Tower, Trevor Hemmings, is surprisingly shy of the press considering how often he does high-profile — and largely successful — deals. The Sunday Times' annual survey of the wealthiest in the land would have us believe that he is worth £315 million, making him Britain's 65th richest person.

His £74 million acquisition of First Leisure's resorts division yesterday is just the latest in a long line of deals that have hit the headlines, and a

spokesman hinted that he might take a look at the London Dungeon, over which Vardon has just hoisted a "for sale" sign. His bullish coup must still be persuading Scottish & Newcastle to part with £80 million for Pontin's, just three years after he led a buyout from Bass for a mere £57 million.

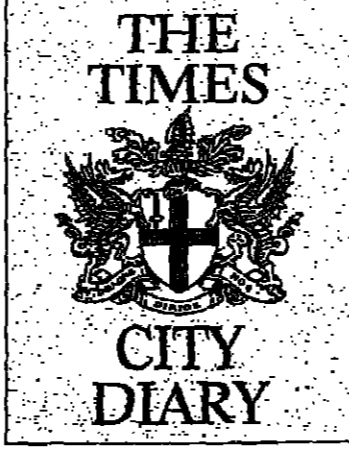
But Eric Kilby, his right-hand man for the past decade and the person responsible for the latest deal, is adamant that Hemmings is no Barclay brothers-style reclusive. "It's not that he doesn't want to talk to people," says Kilby. "He's just a very busy guy and prefers to delegate to the people who are actually going to be running the businesses."



Blackpool: unlikely to be the last resort for Trevor Hemmings

It was refreshing to hear the Hong Kong Monetary Authority finally owning up to holding a near 9 per cent stake in HSBC Holdings, the biggest company under its scrutiny. But now that it has a notifiable stake, will HKMA disclose each and every buy or sell like a good shareholder should?

Palace coup
THE threat of a writ from the Duke of Marlborough has failed to intimidate the company that has registered the blenheim-palace.co.uk Internet



address. Last week, as devotees of City Diary recall, it emerged that a certain Geoffrey Pidoux, owner of Amicus Research & Management, faced legal action over what the Duke claimed was an attempt to trade off his good name.

But Pidoux, who lives less than a mile from the palace, phoned me yesterday to defend himself, decrying what he described as His Grace's "bully-boy tactics". He explained: "My intention is to sell beautiful limited-edition prints of Blenheim Palace and the grounds. Given what I'm planning to do and where I live, this is a logical trading address."

According to Pidoux, who can expect a writ this week, the Duke has already registered four other Internet addresses, all of them incorporating the Blenheim Palace name. "How many more does he want?" he asked.

Theme pubs

AIM newcomer Pubs 'n' Bars made an understandably muted debut after its reverse takeover of London Asia Pacific yesterday — its shares rose just 3p from its 52p placing price — but its bullish expansion plans remain undiluted. For the time being it has just four pubs, yet its directors plan to have at least 100 within 12 months on route to a full listing and it cannot be long before it snaps up Real Leisure, a related company with 31 pubs. But I am reassured to learn that it has no intention of joining the themed concept stampede. "Our theme is earnings," says chairman Graham Jackson neatly.

Don't call us...

IT'S a cruel world. A survey of Britain's bosses shows that job candidates can be kept chatting for over an hour by interviewers, even when it's obvious from the moment they walk through the door that they're unsuitable. Only 16 per cent of bosses will actually break the news to their quivering victims while they're still in the room, with just 1 per cent admitting to an "on yer bike" approach.

Particularly spineless interviewers will simply use euphemisms such as "I've a meeting to attend" or "I've got several more candidates to see". My own technique would probably be closest to those who "undermine the candidate by asking particularly diffi-

cult and searching questions". Only joking. I've always been spineless.

NEWS reaches me that a certain Chris Herbert is to join 300 other cyclists in attempting to cycle from London to Paris in four days to raise funds for the Royal British Legion. But this is not, I am told, the Chris Herbert who dreamt up the Spice Girls. Rather more mundanely, he is director of marketing at Direct Line Financial Services. He says the closest he has ever come to the group is his 12-year-old son's Posh Spice doll. The less said about that the better.

DOMINIC WALSH



"I'd like a word about your overdraft"

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Early losses halved

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of equity prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, and others. Columns include company name, price, and percentage change.

Table of equity prices for the ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES sector, listing companies like 3i, 3i Food, and 3i Breweries.

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Advertisement for HSBC Group, featuring the text 'if you don't enjoy free banking... you're with the wrong bank' and 'first direct' logo.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, price, and change. Includes sections for various fund categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market.

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THEATRE
Stephen Daldry
on directing
David Hare
PAGE 30

THE TIMES ARTS

DANCE
A full diary
for Britain's
Mark Baldwin
PAGE 31



FESTIVAL FEVER: Theatre and concerts from Edinburgh, while London's Prommers get Elgar and a Salonen premiere

Family business before pleasure

Whether comedians or philosophers, said men spend nine months struggling to get out of the womb, and the rest of their lives desperate to get back in, must surely have been round to tea at Eugene O'Neill's house. For this startlingly candid unfinished work from the randy old bull of American dramatic letters drags us through a familiar familial mire of self-destructive powerplays and wildly contrary mood swings, as corrupted idealist Simon becomes the pivot on which hang the passions of the two women in his life.

For, to coin another cliché, behind every great man there's an even greater woman. But how often do you get the complete package of mother, wife and whore all rolled into one? Which is why mother Deborah and wife Sara tear verbal chunks out of each other in a highly charged eternal Oedipal triangle.

Some might say it is a textually overloaded work with creaking realism, the Flemish whizz-kid director Ivo van Hove has, in his production for New York Theatre Workshop, opted for a formal expressionism. Each act begins and ends with the cast of six lining up to take the tiniest, barely discernible of bows, both to the audience and to each other, before launching into things. It is a protocol that acknowledges the artifice of what follows, an extreme series of stage configurations, ablaze with symbolism, that at times looks like the last word in forced-grin family portraiture, and at others like a battlefield.

The three central performances here are simply astonishing for their versatility and poise, as Joan MacIntosh's Deborah, Jenny Bacon's Sara and Tim Hopper's Simon swoop through the entire emotional range, often in the one sentence, while role-playing and fantasising. This is a huge risk for American actors to



THEATRE
More Stately
Mansions
Royal Lyceum

take with a writer who has become such a sacred cow in his homeland. Not that van Hove has taken too many liberties, for in the main his ideas liberate the text rather than swamp it.

As Simon turns business into pleasure (and pleasure into business), for instance, by hiring Sara as his secretary, it not only mirrors the encroaching ruthlessness of 20th-century capitalism, but produces one of the most breathlessly dy-

namic scenes in the play by way of frenzied, fast-track sex between Sara and Simon that attempts to capture something long since lost, but ends up as one more battle royal. It also suggests, chicken and egg fashion, that a successful professional life makes for a messed-up emotional one, and vice versa. Where Sara wants love she finds only need and greed.

If anything jars in *More Stately Mansions* it is its length, and at times you feel more than a little grateful that O'Neill never got round to finishing it. But then, with a final primal scream, the original cry for help, some kind of rebirthing takes place as Simon becomes the full-on mama's boy he has always been. And, as with any infant craving for the breast, anyone's will do. This post-Laingian psychological approach may be way too counter-culture for O'Neill purists, but it is still a thrillingly visceral ride home.

NEIL COOPER



Actors taking risks: Joan MacIntosh, Tim Hopper and Jenny Bacon swoop through the Eugene O'Neill emotional range

Having been sidelined during most of this year's Festival, contemporary music took over for a weekend devoted to Pierre Boulez. The wait was well worthwhile, for the series closed with the premiere of the composer's dazzling new *Sur Incises*. Some events may have raised question marks over how Boulez will be remembered, but this was above all a celebration of a great figure who has enjoyed close links with the Edinburgh Festival for half a century.

Artist, activist, anarchist: Boulez has been all these things, and sometimes it seems as if his uncompromising music may be destined to have less effect than his iconoclastic views. Yet just as *Sur Incises* almost, but not quite, suggests that Boulez the composer has mellowed, the man who once advocated burning down opera houses threw no verbal hand grenades while giving the University Festival Lecture.

Indeed, his vision for the future of the concert hall is a liberal one which acknowledges that the relationship between music and audiences has changed. Basing his lecture on experience of Paris's Cité de la Musique, the one-time bogymen of modern music spoke of breaking down psychological barriers and bureaucracy "so that people will have no fear". Offering no startling insights but a measure of self-deprecating humour, he was more revealing in replies to the audience: he insisted on the need

Dazzled by radical chic

CONCERTS
Ensemble
Intercontemporain
Herlihy Hall

for flexibility if symphony orchestras are to survive, and admitted that composers should be obsessed less with tonality versus non-tonality than with developing an awareness of how much "chaos" in sound the listener can grasp.

As if to illustrate this point, *Sur Incises* is immediately gratifying to the ear, full of rhythmic vitality, harmonic feeling and a vivid sense of colour. Perhaps this performance should be described as "the latest premiere", for the work is an example of Boulez's habit of expanding pieces: the original material comes from *Incises* for solo piano and had been elaborated before. Here three pianists are joined by a chiming ensemble of three harps, two vibraphones, marimba, timpani, steel drums and bells. The 40-minute work is by turns effervescent and tender, and received a breathtaking performance by the Ensemble Intercontemporain un-

der their musical director, David Robertson.

Sur Incises is worlds apart from the massive *Pli selon pli*, given by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. Another of Boulez's evolving compositions, it has its origins in Mallarmé settings of the 1950s, and its title, *Fold upon fold*, explains its chronological portrait of the poet. But the score says more about the early Boulez: in spite of arresting effects from lonely emptiness to wild exuberance, it is the kind of highly intellectual music that can seem to lack a living heart. Almost every member of the huge orchestra becomes a soloist, and this performance was a brilliant achievement. It helped that the soprano Validine Anderson can make the most unforgetting music sound beautiful, and that Martyn Brabbins conducted with such fluency.

Boulez himself conducted the Ensemble Intercontemporain, the ensemble he founded 20 years ago, in a richly rewarding concert of his own works and the kind of modernist masterpieces by Schoenberg, Stravinsky and Varèse that inspired him. The composer's own *Improvisations sur Mallarmé I & II*, ravishingly

sung by the bright yet rich soprano of Laura Aikin, made more impact than his *Dérives I & II*, which lack the timeless genius of Ligeti's Chamber Concerto that followed. But in the closing concert, even a marvellously warm account of Carter's recent *Clarinet Concerto* (with Alain Damien) and the British premiere of Philippe Manoury's *Fragments pour un portrait*, a fascinating play on sounds that might have made more impact at less length, showed that Boulez remains perhaps the most truly radical voice in music today.

JOHN ALLISON

Your resistance to change is showing

They might have asked the soloist about vibrato too. Although Zehetmair's use of that technique was more extravagant than the stylistic authorities of the day would have allowed, no violinist contemporary of the composer would have approached the sustained melodic lines of the *Concerto in E minor* with as grudgingly little vibrato as the orchestra applied to Mendelssohn's scoring throughout this particular concert. It is true that, after the interval, the 18th-century wind instruments were effective in lightening the texture of

Orch. of the 18th
Century
Usher Hall

When they came to Rameau, who died more than 80 years before Mendelssohn and in another country, Brüggem and his colleagues were closer to their natural element. There was no doubt of their extraordinary accomplishment on their period instruments even in the first of their two concerts in the Usher Hall but here, in music written for the kind of sound they most naturally make, it was put to much more

positive use. If the suite from Rameau's opera *Nais* could have been more purposefully put together it could scarcely have been more attractively or more stylishly played. Nor, since Rameau was writing for precisely this kind of ensemble, was it lacking in expressive emphasis.

It was another indication of their skill that, with much the same equipment, they found a different kind of sound for Beethoven's *Eroica* Symphony. Although that work was written only 30 years before Mendelssohn's *Italian Symphony*, it might well have been played on instruments such as these — including the natural horns which had such a testing time in the third movement. As an interpretation of one of the most dramatically inspired of all symphonies, however, it was disappointing — partly because we are used to a bigger sound, no doubt, but also because of Brüggem's all too relaxed approach to it.

GERALD LARNER

Opens Tomorrow
from 3 September
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Holly de Jong
Avril Elgar
Julian Glover
Barbara Jefford
Diana Rigg
Joanna Roth
Toby Stephens
Albery Theatre
0171 369 1740 & 0171 344 4444

Redeemed by a heavenly choir Tribute to LA

Just a fortnight after their latest successful performance of the completed Third Symphony of Elgar, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Andrew Davis on Sunday night brought *The Apostles* to the Proms for the first time. Inaugurating a three-year project to perform the three great Elgar oratorios — all of which he managed to finish

PROMS
The Apostles
Albert Hall/Radio 3

unaided — Sunday's concert raised the question always asked: just how well does *The Apostles* compare with *Gerontius* and *The Kingdom*? Elgar's friend Jaeger (aka Nimrod) opined that it was "even more wonderful than *Gerontius*", but received opinion these days has it that for all its incidental glories, *The Apostles* does not sustain the same level of inspiration as the other two masterpieces. Davis's account did nothing to reverse that judgment; indeed, for an alarming stretch of time it resolutely refused to catch fire at all.

Before the interval, the solo singing was competent rather than impeccably stylish,



Andrew Davis, who gave *The Apostles* its Proms premiere

though the use of operatic voices — Thomas Randle (John), Anthony Michaels-Moore (Jesus), Steven Page (Peter) and John Tomlinson (Judas) — may have been a contributory factor. Tomlinson's Judas was the most interesting portrayal, in this connection. That character's comments such as "He

poured contempt upon princes" are marked "parlando" in the score, and Tomlinson's communicative skills — for a moment he seemed to adopt the buttonholing persona of a character in a Wagner opera — were deployed here to fascinating effect. Perhaps not inappropriately either: Elgar was

delighted to receive the complete prose works of Wagner for Christmas immediately before starting serious work on *The Apostles*.

But ultimately, the Elgarian style calls for something rather more refined and fastidious. Catherine Wyn-Rogers struck the right note with her portrayal of Mary Magdalene: full-toned but pliable of line, she made an eloquent case for another of the "outsider" characters over which Elgar expressed greatest concern. Felicity Lott was an equally sympathetic Blessed Virgin (and Angel Gabriel), and once Michaels-Moore got into his stride, he sang securely, without quite convincing one that he was born for the role. Randle and Page similarly warmed to their parts as the work progressed.

The starring role, however, was taken by the BBC Symphony Chorus, whose chorusmaster, Stephen Jackson, had prepared them to negotiate everything from the most finely nuanced pianissimo to the most stirring, full-throated affirmation. Both they and Davis came into their own in the work's thrilling peroration, all the more impressive for growing organically out of what came before.

BARRY MILLINGTON

The Los Angeles Philharmonic is back in town — and it rarely tiptoes in. This time the orchestra came bearing an exuberant new work by its music director Esa-Pekka Salonen. So dynamic is this Finn's conducting career that it is easy to overlook the fact that Salonen originally switched from horn-playing to conducting only to give himself more time to compose.

LA Variations, receiving its UK premiere at the Proms, is a 20-minute tribute to the cultural melting-pot which is the city, and to the band of virtuoso musicians which is its orchestra. There is more than a nod, too, to Lutoslawski and to Sibelius in a work whose confident assimilation of our century's Babel-tower of musical languages never masks a voice which is powerfully and distinctively Salonen's own.

It's hard to pin down quite what that is. But the ear picks up at once on that characteristic fusion of rigorous structuring and free poetic fancy: on the thrillingly imaginative use of the orchestral palette, here dark with bass woodwind, pungent with tam-tams, marimba and vibraphone; and on the assured progress of ideas.

The variations are based on two chords. They may splinter into snatches of modal, folk-like melody, or cohere in chorale: their component parts

LPO/Salonen
Albert Hall/Radio 3

may chase each other in canon, or cluster in a huge in-breath of stasis as they become one vast, reverberant chord. The music is propelled by episodes of machine-like rhythm, and by percussive "mantras" which rev up to a coda in which the two chords finally disperse in muted cellos and violins, and a single piccolo cry.

Having filled its transportation trucks to bursting point with the instruments required for this, Salonen's most extensive orchestral work to date, the LA Philharmonic flanked the new work with Copland's *El salón México* and, finally, with Stravinsky's complete ballet music for *The Firebird*. This was a performance clearly prepared with a composer's ear — working from the deep inside of the score outwards — and realised with the silky sophistication and swagger which is now this orchestra's hallmark. At 10 o'clock it was as if the players had just begun: they swung into Prokofiev's *Death of Tybal* as an encore as if they were eager to take on the complete *Romeo and Juliet* too.

HILARY FINCH

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Diggin
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Good lip-sma

LISTINGS Cabaret at the Proms

ARTS

DANCE Mark Baldwin's year

DANCE: Nadine Meisner meets the busy choreographer Mark Baldwin; plus, Edinburgh Festival reviews

Not a moment to waste

Mark Baldwin is so busy that his schedule would make anyone else's hair stand on end. He has made his first piece for City Ballet of London, which is premiered tonight...



Mark Baldwin with his company: "I always had the idea I'd be a choreographer, so I felt I was storing a lot of stuff and now is the time to get it out"

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargre

LONDON BBC PROMS: Manfred Honick returns to the Proms where he created a stir two years ago when he stood in for Marius Janczarski...



Karita Mattila sings Strauss in Edinburgh

ELSEWHERE BRIGHTON: Ruth Madoc and David Griffin head the cast in And Then There Was None, a staging of the popular Agatha Christie mystery.

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

THE HORSE WHISPERER (PG): Increasingly lauded director of Nicholas Evans's best-seller about a healer of damaged horses...

with the Deutsche Staatsoper and with Bart de Block, formerly a principal dancer in Berlin, now Baldwin's assistant and a member of his company...

forming: "I see myself as the desperate part," he jokes. Using an existing score by Hans Werner Henze, Pulcinella Disperato renews the link formed with the German composer...

These in turn serve to illuminate a community on stage, so that the three ballerinas who collapse to the floor perform a step that is both balletically unconventional and charged with emotion.

A fresh breeze

These in turn serve to illuminate a community on stage, so that the three ballerinas who collapse to the floor perform a step that is both balletically unconventional and charged with emotion.

These in turn serve to illuminate a community on stage, so that the three ballerinas who collapse to the floor perform a step that is both balletically unconventional and charged with emotion.

ART GALLERIES

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Large advertisement on the right side of the page, partially cut off, featuring the text 'Hidden peri of shallow foundations' and 'Raices Flamencas'.

Handwritten text at the bottom center: 'سكنا من الاصل'

Fire safety clouded by regulatory smoke

Lois Letts explains why tenants should take a close look at any furniture they are offered when they rent a property

Letting agents and landlords beware: the first known prosecution for breaches of the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988...

The non-professional landlord has several legal loopholes on his side. First is the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) definition of the law...

Landlords have several ways of avoiding the rules

The case highlights the need for knowledge of the recent regulations. They may be well known to professional landlords...

A typical amateur landlord is the businessman sent abroad for six months who takes a tenant to help to pay the mortgage...

Because of loopholes in the law as it stands, he may be right. The Government is involved in one of its lengthy reviews of the situation...



Rent by fire: beware of any furniture deal an agent or landlord may offer you

rentory, although if there were a fire which extended to the locked room, it might add to the intensity of the flames. Then there is the 'dump and retrieve' tactic...

Landlords worried about this should check carefully the fire-retardant capabilities of furniture. Remember, the next big court case is only a smouldering cigarette butt away.

Hidden peril of shallow foundations

Many of Britain's older homes are built on questionable footings, reports Lizzie Enfield

From the front, the six-storey Kendall House in Hastings is an imposing Victorian block of flats. From the back, it's a pile of rubble...

Some of the problems became evident when Southern Water carried out a survey of the area before building a new tunnel under the town...

There was little warning of the impending collapse. A month earlier, residents had noticed cracks on the outside walls...



Subsidence may have caused the collapse of Kendall House

nage says the geological make-up of Britain presents a number of problems. "In this country a lot of the ground is not solid enough to take the weight of a house...

of structural problems. "You'll see cracks and sloping floors, and have difficulties opening windows and doors. All of these are signs that the entire building may be slipping."



John Husband of Humberts reckons he paid as much as 40 per cent over the odds for this Tudor house, despite a poor survey, because he wanted it so badly

Hard-bitten, yet still smitten

When it comes to a dream home, experts are just as likely to lose their heads, writes Amanda Loose

REOWNED for being a hard-nosed wheeler-dealer determined to get the right price - a typical estate agent - he suddenly forgets all he has learnt...

more than the other offer, and 12 per cent more than the guide price. Martin Elwes at Friend & Falcke in Chelsea paid about 10 per cent over the odds...

fair amount of money throwing at it. "I didn't take any notice of the survey, which was done by a friend who said 'you are mad if you buy this, although he did say he would buy it if I didn't'."

Colin Mackenzie at Hamptons International did it 25 years ago - paying at least 10 per cent over the odds for a family house in Sussex...

"We were hugely swayed by our liking for the house. It's very much a gut feeling, whether you can live with a house or not. It needed work and, like all good estate agents, I underestimated how much that might be - despite a 17-page report on beetles and the like...

"In a professional capacity I am negotiating with my head, but if it is my own home, then I'm ruled by the heart," he says. "I usually employ Brian to act for me in such cases, and vice versa. But he was away when I was buying my present house and I really could not afford it."

"Hamptons was instructed on this Georgian house, which was everything we wanted, so I told the owner to get his solicitor to handle it and the house was re-advertised so they could get the best offer. The sale ended up going to best and final offers between two of us, for this £29,500 house."

John Husband at Humberts tells a similar tale. He bought a Tudor house in Sussex about 20 years ago for £50,000 - between 5 and 40 per cent over the odds. With hindsight, he thinks he could have paid 5 per cent less than the asking price, but wanted it badly.

"The seller had just had a huge bonus and said to offer what we could, so I offered 25 per cent below the asking price. To my amazement he accepted and I was so excited by the thought of getting the house that I forgot to discuss fixtures and fittings, and whether appliances would be included. I ended up having to buy many things on top."

"I will never forget when my solicitor rang. He asked if I wanted the good news or the bad. The good was I had got it; the bad that my £33,500 bid was 10 per cent

more than the other offer, and 12 per cent more than the guide price. "We were hugely swayed by our liking for the house. It's very much a gut feeling, whether you can live with a house or not. It needed work and, like all good estate agents, I underestimated how much that might be - despite a 17-page report on beetles and the like. As it was such an old house, we did not know whether we would be able to get permission for various things. But it was very much the right house for us."

Such tales will gladden the hearts of many a disgruntled buyer.

Lettings Directory Association of Residential Letting Agents

Advertisement for the Lettings Directory, listing various agents across London and the South East, including contact details for ARLA, Friend & Falcke, Ironsides, Cluttons, FAW GAPP, Sullivan Thomas, and Duncan Allen.

Advertisement for the Lettings Directory, listing various agents in the North of the Thames, South of the Thames, and City & West End, including contact details for County Hall, Cheesemore, and others.

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WPI Close to St James's Park. W1. 2 bedrooms & 2 baths. £275,000. Tel: 0171 724 4466.

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COUNTRY HOME. 4 bedrooms, 4 reception rooms. Tel: 01232 412001.

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FRANCE

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Period cottage. Grand fronted. Tel: 01232 412001.

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FRANCE

WPI Close to St James's Park. W1. 2 bedrooms & 2 baths. £275,000. Tel: 0171 724 4466.

NORFOLK

1872 Manor village school. 3 reception rooms. Tel: 01232 412001.

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WESTCLIFF. Det 1920's house. Tel: 01232 412001.

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FRANCE

WPI Close to St James's Park. W1. 2 bedrooms & 2 baths. £275,000. Tel: 0171 724 4466.

OXFORDSHIRE

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ESSEX

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COUNTRY RENTALS

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SCOTLAND

WINDSOR PLACE W1. 1000 sq ft. 2 beds, 2 baths, 2 living areas. £450,000. Tel: 0171 486 4111.

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FRANCE

WPI Close to St James's Park. W1. 2 bedrooms & 2 baths. £275,000. Tel: 0171 724 4466.

SUSSEX

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ESSEX

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WILTSHIRE

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ESSEX

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BUYING ABROAD? The Autumn overseas property exhibition: The Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1. Friday 11th, Saturday 12th, Sunday 13th September 1998.

THE WAREHOUSES COMPLETE WITH A VIEW OF THE FUTURE. The Millennium Dome makes a breathtaking site for this unique riverside location. Tel: 0171 591 5900.

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Handwritten text at the bottom of the page.

DEGREE COURSE VACANCIES 1998: SCIENCE

Those seeking places should start by making a phone call, says John O'Leary

How to use listings

Today's listing of courses with vacancies in clearing covers mathematics and science...

250,000. Although most of the courses on this page will have vacancies right up until the start of term...

Once you have decided on a course to pursue, contact the institution with your CEJ number and your Ucas application number...

Pharmacy and Physics listings for various institutions including Aston, Brunel, and Liverpool.

Radiography listings for institutions like Brunel, Central Lancashire, and Liverpool.

Sports Science listings for Brunel, Central Lancashire, and Liverpool.

Statistics listings for Brunel, Central Lancashire, and Liverpool.

Home Economics listings for Liverpool and Brunel.

Horticulture listings for Brunel and Liverpool.

Marine Science listings for Brunel and Liverpool.

Materials Science listings for Brunel and Liverpool.



AGRICULTURE listings for institutions like Aberystwyth, Brunel, and Liverpool.

ANATOMY listings for Brunel and Liverpool.

ANIMAL SCIENCE listings for Brunel and Liverpool.

ASTROPHYSICS listings for Brunel and Liverpool.

BIOCHEMISTRY listings for Brunel and Liverpool.

BIOLOGICAL MEDICAL CHEMISTRY listings for Brunel and Liverpool.

BIOLOGY listings for Brunel and Liverpool.

BOTANY listings for Brunel and Liverpool.

CHEMISTRY listings for Brunel and Liverpool.

AGRICULTURE listings (continued) for Brunel and Liverpool.

ANATOMY listings (continued) for Brunel and Liverpool.

ANIMAL SCIENCE listings (continued) for Brunel and Liverpool.

ASTROPHYSICS listings (continued) for Brunel and Liverpool.

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MARINE SCIENCE listings for Brunel and Liverpool.

MATERIALS SCIENCE listings for Brunel and Liverpool.

DENTAL TECHNOLOGY listings for Brunel and Liverpool.

EARTH SCIENCE listings for Brunel and Liverpool.

Advertisement for 'The Times Guide to the House of Commons' by Simon Jenkins and Matthew Parris.

السنة 1319

RUGBY UNION

Unhappy Burke moves to Cardiff

By Mark Souster

AFTER their recent turmoil, Bristol must have thought the worst was over, but only five days before the start of the new season they received another setback when Paul Burke, their Ireland international fly half and captain, left the club amid some acrimony.

Burke, 35, has opted for a two-year contract with Cardiff rather than an uncertain future at Bristol, where Bob Dwyer, the new director of rugby, has put the entire squad on a four-month trial. Burke is the fifteenth player to leave Bristol since they were relegated in May, and his departure to the Arms Park is among the most significant. He said: "I kept Bristol fully informed about the situation with Cardiff hoping they would get back to me. But I was told they could not offer me anything other than a four-month holding contract. I am very disappointed by the whole situation."

He makes his Cardiff debut on Saturday in the meeting with Bedford, a match that has still not been officially approved by the Rugby Football Union. The Welsh Rugby Union general committee meets tomorrow to decide what sanctions, if any, will be taken against Cardiff for playing Sale in a friendly last Friday at Heywood Road. Whatever the outcome, there is no doubt that the prospect of game-with England's top clubs has captured the public imagination in Wales. In three days Swansea have sold two thirds of the number of season tickets bought last year, while Cardiff have sold more than 2,000 season tickets.

Meanwhile, it has been confirmed that Matt Burke, the Australia full back, will miss the autumn tour to Britain because of a serious shoulder injury. Burke is not expected to play again for seven months after being injured against New Zealand last Saturday. Elsewhere Silas Nkanunu has been appointed the first black president of the South Africa Rugby Football Union. Nkanunu, 65, a lawyer, succeeds Louis Luyt.

Redknapp ready to try his luck again

Matt Dickinson on the England midfielder hoping for a new start in Sweden

THE fourth coming of Jamie Redknapp as an international footballer is upon us, but one hesitates before heralding it with too much ceremony. On past experience, no sooner has the Liverpool player walked on to the England stage than he falls through a hidden trapdoor.

For a man who otherwise seems blessed with so much good fortune, the 25-year-old has endured a wretched time at the highest level of the game, where his appearances have been at the whim of fitness rather than form. Eight caps is a meagre haul for a player so feted by the past two England coaches. Unfailingly polite, Redknapp speaks of his misfortune without once pleading for sympathy. As the husband of glamorous pop star, Louise, the possessor of good looks of his own and having earned enough money to retire a wealthy man tomorrow, he can appreciate that his lot is not such a bad one.

It would be surprising, though, if Redknapp had not occasionally let out an anguished cry of "why me?" as he has had to struggle back from repeated injuries, and few will begrudge him a place in the England XI on Saturday if, as seems increasingly likely, he is selected by Glenn Hoddle for the opening European championship qualifying match in Sweden.

With David Beckham, Nicky Butt and David Batty unavailable, the England coach will probably choose two from Redknapp, Robert Lee and Paul Scholes to accompany Paul Ince in midfield. With only one start for Liverpool this season, Redknapp is short of matches, but looks in better form than Lee or Scholes.

While Redknapp was included in the initial squad of 30 for the World Cup, a knee injury meant he did little more than tan his heart-throb features. So when he said that he "could have had more than eight caps but for the injuries", he is telling barely half the story.

In Hoddle, he certainly has a committed fan. There are those who worry, despite Redknapp's attempts to become more robust, that he is not ferocious enough in the central midfield scuffles so prevalent in the FA Carling Premiership. Even with Paul Ince alongside him, one would



Despite his repeated misfortune with injuries during his international career, Redknapp has never bemoaned his luck. Photograph: Marc Aspland

No sooner had his arrival prompted England's goals than he was out of the tournament

prefer Keane and Butt or Vieira and Petit to play for one's life. With more time at international level and in the absence of Beckham, though, Redknapp's measured passing seems to make him an ideal stand-in and his club partnership with Ince, which flourished in the thrashing of Newcastle United on Sunday, is likely to be retained by England.

"We are obviously different players but we play well together, there's no doubt about that," Redknapp said. "Ince keeps you on your toes because he never stops

moaning, and we work well like that." Who better, also, to supply the bullets for Michael Owen, assuming the prodigy cannot do everything on his own, than his Anfield colleague? "I have never played with anyone as quick as him," Redknapp said. "It frightens everyone. Defenders back off when he gets the ball because they can't deal with it. It is great for me because you can hit a bad ball and the next thing, he is on to it and it is a great pass."

If Redknapp is to hit the balls for Owen to chase, it will be from midfield rather than sweeper, with Hoddle backing tracking from his intention of rebuilding the Liverpool player into an English version of Matthias Sammer, the Germany sweeper. "It is on the backburner," Redknapp said. "I have always thought of myself as a midfielder first and foremost." He did not trot out the cliché about being happy to play anywhere, but then after his run of injuries, he did not need to.

Petit's lack of control punished by Wenger

By Matt Dickinson

IT TAKES a lot to shatter Arsène Wenger's calm façade, but Emmanuel Petit has managed it. The Arsenal midfielder player was yesterday fined a week's wages — believed to be around £8,000 — by his manager for being sent off against Charlton Athletic at Highbury on Saturday.

Probably more unsettling and certainly more unexpected for Petit, however, was the blast of vitriol that Wenger is understood to have unleashed at him in the dressing-room shortly after the final whistle of a frustrating 0-0 draw.

Petit, who won a World Cup winner's medal this summer, was initially booked for protesting at Graham Poll's decision not to award Arsenal a penalty and moments later, clearly incensed, he gave the official no option but to dismiss him for a second caution when he clattered wildly into Shaun Newton.

Another player in trouble with his manager yesterday for his attitude to a referee was Steve Walsh, the Leicester City captain, who criticised Uriah Rennie after his team's 1-0 defeat away to Blackburn Rovers on Saturday.

Walsh had strong words for Rennie after the official had booked seven players and then denied him what he thought was a late penalty. However, Murrin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, said yesterday: "My feeling is that players should not be criticising referees in this manner. I will be taking disciplinary action."

Ernie Heskey, the Leicester striker, will decide on his return from duty with England Under-21s in Sweden on Friday whether to sign a new contract at Filbert Street. Leicester want Heskey, 20, to commit himself to a further season.

Kenny Dalglish, replaced as Newcastle United manager by Rudd Gullit last week, has enlisted the help of the League Managers Association (LMA) in his legal battle with the club. Dalglish is talking to the LMA's solicitors after he claimed he was dismissed. Newcastle maintain that Dalglish had offered to resign.

Steve Lomas will miss Northern Ireland's opening European championship qualifier against Turkey because of an ankle injury. The Northern Ireland captain damaged his ankle playing for West Ham United away to Coventry City on Saturday.

Andy Goram, the former Rangers and Scotland goalkeeper, has joined Notts County, of the Nationwide League second division, on a short-term arrangement.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

The Israeli declarer playing against Britain in the recent EU championships missed a chance to perform the aptly named Dentist's Coup.

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for Dealer North and Love all. Includes a small grid for IMPs and a compass rose indicating directions S, W, N, E.

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: ace of diamonds. West (David Mossop) led the ace of diamonds and switched to a club in response to East's three, a low card requesting a switch to the lowest-ranking suit. East (Tom Townsend) ruffed the club and returned a diamond. Declarer ruffed and played the king of spades to West's ace. Mossop could tell from the bidding that East would have no more trumps, so he accurately played back a heart, stranding declarer in dummy. Declarer had no way back to hand without promoting West's nine of trumps, so the contract went one off. A competent dentist would have diagnosed this condition, and cashed the ace-king of hearts, extracting West's good exit-cards, before playing on spades. This prevents the trump promotion, as when West takes the ace of spades he has to give declarer the lead in a black suit. The only time the heart play will cost is when West has started with a singleton. In that case West could have beaten the contract by switching to a heart at trick two, ensuring the defence got both of their ruffs in the round-ed suits. Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

- By Philip Howard. CONTANGO: a. A South American fruit b. A dispute c. A percentage stock premium. ENANTIODROMIA: a. A special airfield b. Opposite process c. A three-humped camel. OBLIGADO: a. An accompaniment b. Engagement c. Thanksgiving. DOWITCHER: a. A water diver's rod b. An Arctic snipe c. The Tsarina's sister.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Katabasis. Anatoly Karpov, the Fide world champion, appears to have reached the nadir of his fortunes. After losing a speed match to Judit Polgar earlier in the year, Karpov has now logged what is probably the worst tournament performance of his life in a medium-strength event in Poland. Any lingering belief that he is the true world champion after this catastrophe must have been completely dispelled. Today I give one of his losses from the tournament. White: Mikhail Krasenkow Black: Anatoly Karpov Polanica, Zdroj 1998. Queen's Gambit Declined.

Chess move list showing moves for White and Black, including notation like 1. d4, 2. e4, 3. Nf3, etc.

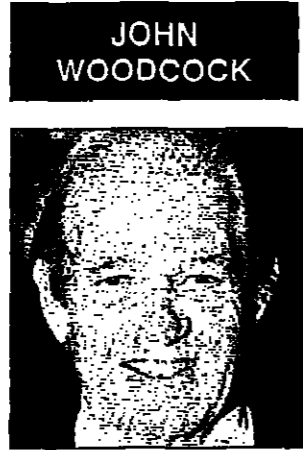
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene. White to play. This position is from the game Houska - Stephenson, British championship 1998. In this apparently quiet middlegame position White found a way to gain a decisive material advantage. What did he play? Solution on page 38.

Advertisement for 'CANCEL THE MILK' featuring a large graphic of the words 'CANCEL THE MILK' and two milk bottles. Text includes 'The great easyJet take off starts on Monday.' and 'http://www.the-times.co.uk'.

Murali the magician on Laker's lofty plane

To the England side and those closest to them, it must have seemed like lumina that the pitch for the last Test match of the summer could have been tailor-made to suit the Sri Lanka spinner.



JOHN WOODCOCK passes judgment on the Sri Lanka spinner

What we caught at the Oval was a glimpse, as revealing as it was evocative, of a game at which England once excelled but which is now more or less obsolete in this country.

terms with Laker is no more than Murali deserves. He is a phenomenon. It is only a pity that his action has become such a bone of contention.

'Even Compton would have found it anything but easy'

Upon hearing the stumps being rattled by Lock's quicker ball, batsmen were known to ask the umpire whether they had been bowled or run out.

The last slow bowler to come to England and wreak such havoc as Murali, with anything other than an orthodox action, was Sonny Ramadhin, of West Indies, whose figures in the Lord's Test of 1950 (115-70-152-11) bear comparison with Murali's at the Oval (113.5-41-220-16).



Muralitharan's wrist action helps to give him his prodigious powers of spin

Should it ever be decided otherwise, and he is banned, the game will be the loser, so salutary is his influence, so marvellous his dexterity, so refreshing his success.

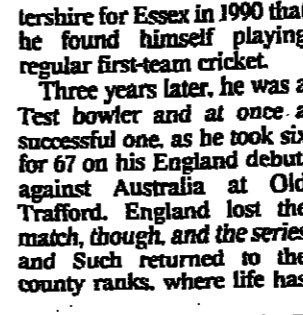
side, to Pakistan, who had never previously come anywhere near to winning a Test match in England.

England wheel spins full circle for popular veteran of county game

Michael Henderson finds that Peter Such is delighted to be back in the international frame

Peter Such was in Uppminster yesterday, playing in a benefit match to raise funds for his club. The Essex off-spinner was the real beneficiary, however, and he was still pinching himself after hearing of his summons for the England tour of Australia.

At a time when many cricketers are preparing for the autumn of their careers, Such was feeling as frisky as a ram in spring.



Such: unexpected recall

Such has not given up hope of playing. Such said, "I felt that I had neither lost nor gained ground, though I have not had a great season. If I've been ignored for four years when I've been taking wickets, they're not likely to select me when I'm not."

he said. "It's a fantastic place to play cricket. There are always top-class practice facilities. If we had facilities like that, we might do rather better."

ENGLAND'S WINTER TOURS

ASHES ITINERARY

NOVEMBER
20-24: First Test (Brisbane)
25-28: Second Test (Perth)
DECEMBER
11-15: Third Test (Adelaide)
26-30: Fourth Test (Melbourne)
JANUARY 1999
2-6: Fifth Test (Sydney)

ONE-DAY TRIANGULAR SERIES

(v Australia)
Jan 10 (Sydney); Jan 15 (Melbourne)
Jan 17 (Sydney); Jan 26 (Adelaide)
Jan 31 (Melbourne)
(v Sri Lanka)
Jan 11 (Brisbane)
Jan 19 (Melbourne)
Jan 23 (Adelaide)
Feb 2 (Sydney)
Feb 5 (Perth)

TOUR PARTIES

Australia tour:
A J Stewart (Surrey, captain), N Hussain (Essex, vice-captain), M A Atherton (Lancashire), M A Butcher (Surrey), D G Cork (Lancashire), G C Hobbie (Surrey), R D Drift (Gloucestershire), A R C Fraser (Middlesex), D Gough (Yorkshire), D W Headley (Kent), W K Hegg (Lancashire), G C Hobbie (Surrey), A D Mullally (Lancashire), M R Ramprakash (Middlesex), P M Suck (Essex), G P Thorpe (Surrey), A J Tudor (Surrey), P M Wood (Surrey), G A Gooch (Essex), Coach: D Lloyd.

Winds International Cup, Bangladesh (Oct 24-Nov 3):
A J Hobbie (Surrey, captain), J D Auld (Lancashire), A D Brown

(Surrey), D R Brown (Warwickshire), M A Eathorn (Kent), N H Fairbrother (Lancashire), M V Fleming (Kent), A F Giles (Warwickshire), G A Hick (Nottinghamshire), W H King (Warwickshire), G D Lloyd (Lancashire), P J Martin (Lancashire), R C Russell (Gloucestershire), C E W Silverwood (Yorkshire), Tour manager: D A Graveney, Coach: D Lloyd.

A tour to Zimbabwe and South Africa (Jan 18-Feb 8):
M P Vaughan (Yorkshire, captain), D L Madsen (Lancashire, vice-captain), M A Atherton (Lancashire), D A Coaker (Gloucestershire), A Flintoff (Lancashire), S J Harrison (Durham), P M Hutchinson (Yorkshire), R W T Key (Kent), J D Leycester (Sussex), M B Loye

(Northamptonshire), C M W Read (Nottinghamshire), V S Solanki (Warwickshire), G P Swann (Northamptonshire), S D Thomas (Gloucestershire), M S M Windward (Warwickshire), G D Wood (Gloucestershire), Tour manager: P A Neale, Coach: J E Embury.

World Super Max 50, Perth (Oct 14-16):
M W Atherton (Gloucestershire), M V Fleming (Kent), G Adams (Sussex), A Flintoff (Lancashire), P J Francis (Nottinghamshire), G M Hamilton (Yorkshire), R C Ironi (Essex), P A Neale (Gloucestershire), D Denby (Northamptonshire), N M M Smith (Warwickshire), V J Wells (Lancashire), Tour manager/coach: M W Gazing.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

Transfer of Office Limited
IN LIQUIDATION
NOTICE OF THE 24th INVOLUNTARY ACT 1986

TAKE NOTICE that the above-named company, being a company limited by guarantee, has been placed into liquidation by the court under the provisions of the Insolvency Act 1986, and that a meeting of the creditors of the company will be held at the City of London Law Centre, 12th Floor, 12th Avenue, London EC4A 3DF, on the 24th day of August 1998, at 10.30 am.

NOTICE OF 99th MEETING OF CREDITORS (CONTRACTS) LIMITED
Principal Trading Address: Unit 2, Bahme Road, Chesham, Bucks HP19 8EN
Company Number: 03004622

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at The City of London Law Centre, 12th Floor, 12th Avenue, London EC4A 3DF, on the 24th day of August 1998, at 10.30 am.

NOTICE OF 99th MEETING OF CREDITORS (CLERKING) LIMITED
Principal Trading Address: Unit 2, Bahme Road, Chesham, Bucks HP19 8EN
Company Number: 03004622

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at The City of London Law Centre, 12th Floor, 12th Avenue, London EC4A 3DF, on the 24th day of August 1998, at 10.30 am.

NOTICE OF 99th MEETING OF CREDITORS (CONTRACTS) LIMITED
Principal Trading Address: Unit 2, Bahme Road, Chesham, Bucks HP19 8EN
Company Number: 03004622

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at The City of London Law Centre, 12th Floor, 12th Avenue, London EC4A 3DF, on the 24th day of August 1998, at 10.30 am.

NOTICE OF 99th MEETING OF CREDITORS (CLERKING) LIMITED
Principal Trading Address: Unit 2, Bahme Road, Chesham, Bucks HP19 8EN
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0171-782 7344

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP
Gloucestershire v Northamptonshire

BRISTOL First day of four, Gloucestershire won, 108-3 (25 overs), with Ray 45 and Jones 35. Northamptonshire 108-4 (25 overs), with Ray 45 and Jones 35.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE First Innings:
R R Montgomerie lbw b Smith 0
J J Smith not out 0
M B Love lbw b Smith 0
A L Pennington lbw b Hancock 0
D J Gifford not out 0
M J Curran lbw b Walsh 7
G R Jones not out 7
J P Taylor not out 6
A J Wood not out 6
J F Brown not out 6
Extras (lb 6, nb 2) 8
Total (8 wickets, 25 overs) 123

FALL OF WICKETS 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-4, 5-40, 6-57, 7-97, 8-119, 9-119.

BOWLING Walsh 17.4-36-6-6, Smith 10.0-60-3, Jones 10.0-60-3, Taylor 10.0-60-3, Wood 10.0-60-3.

Gloucestershire First Innings:
R H Dawson c Parbhoy b Taylor 2
J H C Hancock c Parbhoy b Taylor 7
M J Curran not out 29
M B Love lbw b Follett 19
M G M Watkinson b Follett 19
A J Wood not out 19
J R C Read not out 19
Extras (lb 4, nb 14) 19
Total (6 wickets, 58 overs) 159

BOWLING Taylor 18.4-45-1, Taylor 18.4-50-3, Jones 18.4-45-1, Taylor 18.4-50-3, Jones 18.4-45-1.

Sussex v Glamorgan
HOME second day of four, Glamorgan have a lead of 21 runs at stumps.

SUSSEX First Innings:
M T E Powell c Law b Parkin 0
W D Nixon lbw b Parkin 0
J R Carpenter c Shaw b Davies 7
C J Adams not out 7
R A Higgs c Shaw b Davies 7
N Keady c Powell b Dale 13
R S Cresswell c Shaw b Thomas 16
G J Kirby c Thorpe b Thomas 16
J L Martin c Evans b Thomas 16
J D Patten not out 0
N M McLean b Johnson 0
Extras (lb 7, nb 3, nb 3) 13
Total (11 wickets, 29 overs) 82

FALL OF WICKETS 1-0, 2-0, 3-0, 4-0, 5-0, 6-0, 7-0, 8-0, 9-0, 10-0, 11-0, 12-0, 13-0, 14-0, 15-0, 16-0, 17-0, 18-0, 19-0, 20-0, 21-0, 22-0, 23-0, 24-0, 25-0, 26-0, 27-0, 28-0, 29-0.

Glamorgan First Innings:
W L Law c Adams b Robinson 45
A W Evans lbw b Martin-Jenkins 28
A Dale c Wilson b Lewry 16
M P Maynard not out 10
P A Cook c Khan b Martin-Jenkins 10
M J Powell c Robinson b Lewry 10
R D Croft c Adams b Robinson 15
S D Thomas c Wilson b Robinson 15
A P Davies not out 0
D T Patten not out 0
Extras (lb 4, nb 3, nb 3) 10
Total (11 wickets, 29 overs) 158

FALL OF WICKETS 1-45, 2-83, 3-134, 4-236, 5-211, 6-251, 7-261, 8-262, 9-262, 10-262, 11-262, 12-262, 13-262, 14-262, 15-262, 16-262, 17-262, 18-262, 19-262, 20-262, 21-262, 22-262, 23-262, 24-262, 25-262, 26-262, 27-262, 28-262, 29-262.

Somerset v Worcestershire
WINTON first day of four, Worcestershire won, 108-3 (25 overs), with Ray 45 and Jones 35.

SOMERSET First Innings:
A R K Poonji not out 6
P C L Holloway b Haynes 8
M V Troscianko not out 8
Extras (lb 4, nb 2) 6
Total (1 wicket, 14.5 overs) 33

Worcestershire First Innings:
W P C Watson c Troscianko b Caddick 8
A Hirst c Troscianko b Caddick 4
C J Birt not out 4
V S Solanki lbw b Caddick 4
D A Llewellyn lbw b Caddick 4
Extras (lb 4, nb 2) 6
Total (6 wickets, 25 overs) 33

BOWLING Caddick 10.0-60-3, Jones 10.0-60-3, Taylor 10.0-60-3, Wood 10.0-60-3.

Hampshire v Middlesex
SOUTHAMPTON second day of four, Hampshire won, 108-3 (25 overs), with Ray 45 and Jones 35.

MIDDLESEX First Innings:
D J Gooch not out 16
R A Kettleborough c Amis b James 16
A J Strauss c Kendall b McLean 83
M W Gooch c Wood b Mousinho 17
P N Wood c Ayres b Harley 17
R B Brown c Ayres b Jarvis 17
J L Hewitt not out 17
P L Johnson lbw b Morris 1
P C R Tufnell not out 1
Extras (lb 15, lb 8, w 2, nb 34) 67
Total 208

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Score at 120 overs: 395-6
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-56, 2-155, 3-240, 4-282, 5-311, 6-357, 7-366, 8-401, 9-410
BOWLING: M. J. Curran 11-24-47-2, James 21-61-1, Jones 24-74-3, Morris 24-12-105-3, Mousinho 19-53-1, Stephenson 13-34-70

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HOME second day of four, Glamorgan have a lead of 21 runs at stumps.

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R S Cresswell c Shaw b Thomas 16
G J Kirby c Thorpe b Thomas 16
J L Martin c Evans b Thomas 16
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Extras (lb 7, nb 3, nb 3) 13
Total (11 wickets, 29 overs) 82

FALL OF WICKETS 1-0, 2-0, 3-0, 4-0, 5-0, 6-0, 7-0, 8-0, 9-0, 10-0, 11-0, 12-0, 13-0, 14-0, 15-0, 16-0, 17-0, 18-0, 19-0, 20-0, 21-0, 22-0, 23-0, 24-0, 25-0, 26-0, 27-0, 28-0, 29-0.

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A J Strauss c Kendall b McLean 83
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P N Wood c Ayres b Harley 17
R B Brown c Ayres b Jarvis 17
J L Hewitt not out 17
P L Johnson lbw b Morris 1
P C R Tufnell not out 1
Extras (lb 15, lb 8, w 2, nb 34) 67
Total 208

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Bonus points: Somerset 4, Worcestershire 1, Glamorgan 1, Middlesex 1, Hampshire 1, Warwickshire 1, Northamptonshire 1, Gloucestershire 1.

Gloucestershire v Northamptonshire
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D J Gifford not out 0
M J Curran lbw b Walsh 7
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J P Taylor not out 6
A J Wood not out 6
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Extras (lb 6, nb 2) 8
Total (8 wickets, 25 overs) 123

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Rejected Smith

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to prove a point

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CRICKET

Caddick wastes no time replying to snub by selectors

By Thrasy Petropoulos

TAUNTON. (Worcestershire won toss) Somerset, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 191 runs behind Worcestershire

IT has become commonplace to refer to Andrew Caddick and Graeme Hick as the enigmas of their generation: a bowler good enough to have taken more wickets than any other this season and a batsman who recently completed his hundredth first-class century.

This latest entry to a catalogue of international disappointments will have hurt more than most before, however. Through their omissions, the selectors have betrayed a lack of confidence

in character rather than ability in both players. Evidently, performance alone can no longer guarantee attention.

It is difficult, therefore, to know whether Caddick's eight-wicket haul yesterday was a glorious riposte to the selectors, proving conclusively the error of their ways, or cause for further frustration, another indication of what England are missing out on.

In the past, Caddick has not helped himself when things have not gone his way, notably in Trinidad earlier this year, when he reacted angrily to criticism by David Lloyd, the England coach, that he had squandered helpful bowling conditions during a Test defeat.

It is Caddick's bowling, however, that has done the talking

since his return from the Caribbean. He has now taken 50 wickets in his past ten first-class innings, seven of which have come in hauls of five-wicket or more, and, with 88 dismissals to date, he is well on course to become the first Somerset bowler since Ian Botham in 1978 to reach the 100 mark in a season.

Bowling with sustained menace, he cut a swath through the Worcestershire batting after Hick, captaining in the absence of Tom Moody, had won the toss and elected to bat. There was to be no other outcome: Phil Weston and Abdul Hafeez, the openers, had both been caught by Trescothick at slip early on.

In the context of the match, the battle between Caddick and Hick promised to be a great one. Where Caddick was revitalised, though, Hick cut a jaded and distracted figure at the crease. He needed 44 balls to get off the mark and was dropped at slip, off Trescothick, on two. Batting as if from memory, he somehow had made it to 44 and then cut Caddick to backward point, where Bowler took a good catch.

The best batting came from Vikram Solanki, who showed, during his innings of 47, the flowing drives that have earned him selection for the England A tour to Zimbabwe and South Africa. Yet this was to be Caddick's day in the sun and, during a spell of three for eight after lunch, Solanki was pinned before and Rhodes edged to first slip.

It was at this stage that Stefan Jones intervened with the wicket of Stuart Lampitt, but Caddick came back by dismissing Gavin Haynes, for a feisty 57, Duncan Catterall, making his first-class debut, for a duck, both to leg-side catches, and David Leatherdale, bowled late on a drive. By this time, the jubilant celebrations had been replaced by a slow walk towards the wicketkeeper and a wry grin: the irony of the situation had become fully apparent. Whatever the ultimate futility of the feat, this was a gesture of defiance on grand scale.

When Somerset began their reply, they lost Piran Holloway shortly before the close.



White, the Hampshire opener, fends off a difficult delivery from Johnson

Sting fails to stop Tufnell

By Barney Spender

SOUTHAMPTON (second day of four) Hampshire, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 146 runs behind Middlesex

ON a day when Giles White, with his fourth first-class century of the season, and Dmitri Mascarenhas confirmed their growing reputations, it was perhaps inevitable that Phil Tufnell, the Middlesex spinner, would be the focal figure of the day

and a painful one it turned out to be. Left out of the England touring party in the morning, he suffered at the hands of White and Mascarenhas before having to make a brief, hobbling departure from the field when a wasp flew up his trouser leg and stung him on the knee. Ignored all summer while

by taking their first innings to 437, a total boosted by 69 extras, which is a Hampshire record. With their bowlers being fined £2 for each no ball, it is proving to be a costly end of season in more ways than one.

Needing 288 to avoid the follow-on, Hampshire slipped to 124 for five before White and Mascarenhas added 119 in 20 overs. White, who came into this game with scores of 58, 156, 13 and 95 not out, cast aside his stolid image to race through his second fifty in 44 balls. He hit 14 fours before falling leg before to Chris Bait.

Mascarenhas struck an impressive 63 from 89 balls to save the follow-on, before three wickets in one over from Johnson ensured that Middlesex still held the upper hand.

TENNIS

Memories spur Agassi to turn back the clock

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN NEW YORK

ACCORDING to Andre Agassi, he has great memories of this city "and this is also a court that I play well on". In the old days, that might have been the problem with him—the tennis was fun, but the lifestyle was even better. Now a little older and, allegedly, a little wiser, the slightly more sober Agassi claims to have only tennis on his mind at the moment.

On Monday night, he polished off one of France's young pretenders, Sebastien Grosjean, 20, 6-4, 6-1, 6-4. It was a pleasant workout on a clear night and one that was not going to test the former champion too much. Grosjean makes up for his lack of inches—he stands a meagre 5ft 9in—

grand slam titles and his label of being the most talented player of his generation is wearing a little thin the longer he waits to win his fourth. This summer, he has put together an impressive run, winning two tournaments, reaching another final and notching up good match results. Only Pat Rafter, of Australia, has done better.

Still, he had to play to beat Grosjean. "I feel like a lot of balls you think you can hurt him on, he actually strikes them even better," Agassi said. "But it just felt great to be out there. It means a lot to me to be here. You wait all year for this event and all of a sudden it's time to go. It's a feeling like no other."

Agassi is looking confident and, more importantly, fit. "It all boils down to playing well



Agassi: on home ground

Put Agassi on home turf, or asphalt, and he is a happy man. He has never travelled particularly well, winning most of his titles on this side of the pond, but let him loose at the US Open and he thrives on the atmosphere. This year, he has kept one eye on Flushing Meadows as he hauled his way back up the rankings and now that he is back in town, he is talking tough.

"Every tournament is an opportunity to make a stand and this is top of the list," he said. "This is as good an opportunity to win a grand slam as any."

Grosjean is the opposite of everything that Agassi represents. Bright and with a good sense of humour, he has a reputation of being a remarkably sporting chap. Last week in Boston, for instance, playing against Michael Chang in the semi-finals, he gave away a game point to the American, feeling that a service that had been called out was, in fact, an ace.

The nearest thing to rebellion apparent in Grosjean's play is his habit of wearing his baseball cap back to front. At the same age, Agassi was driving everyone crazy with his antics and being paid fortunes for doing so.

The money may still be flowing for Agassi, but he has finally realised that there is a huge price to pay for wasting your talent. His 12 years on the circuit have yielded just three

at the right time," he said, stating the blindingly obvious. With a huge following wherever he goes in the United States and with many of the top men having inconsistent results, the expectation has been growing all year that the shaven-headed hero can relive his greatest memories.

"I haven't played my best tennis yet and, with the level of players here, I know I will be forced to execute, to step it up," he said. Yet it has been more than three years since he was last able to do that at a grand slam. Agassi will have to conjure up more than great memories of New York if he is to do it again.

Rod Laver, 60, has been allowed to return home to Newport Beach, California, after suffering a stroke in July. The Australian will have to undergo therapy for up to a year.

Redoubtable Walsh crushes resistance

By Jack Bailey

BRISTOL (first day of four) Gloucestershire won toss; Gloucestershire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, lead Northamptonshire by 27 runs

GLoucestershire's chances of winning the Britannic Assurance county championship may have all but disappeared, but they made better progress yesterday than the three teams above them. For this they had to thank, as so often in the past, their redoubtable seam attack—Courtney Walsh and Mike Smith especially—and the way that they exploited a damp, green pitch on a day in which 15 wickets fell.

Walsh's return of six for 38—the chief cause of Northamptonshire's dismissal for 123—brought his tally of championship wickets this season to 85. Overseas players come and go, but Walsh is something else.

Also a notch or two above everyone else, when it came to batting, was Robert Cumfley, of Gloucestershire, who made the only half-century of the day, showing excellent technique against the moving ball and taking his side into the

lead with only three wickets down in the face of good bowling, especially from David Follett.

It is difficult to imagine a worse start than that made by Northamptonshire. Only a single was on the board when Mal Loye was leg-before to Smith in the eighth over—and he was third out. No fewer than nine overs had been bowled before Alan Penberthy managed to notch the first run from the bat.

Montgomery had been leg before to the first ball that he received and Alec Swann had seen his middle stump uprooted by Walsh before Loye succumbed. Penberthy and Sales found batting was easier once Walsh and Smith were rested, but, by the time that Hancock, in his first over, had accounted for Penberthy, Walsh had been brought back and was rampant.

The last five wickets went down for 39. First to go was Sales, hit on the back foot and palpably in front, and those that followed were simply swept away. Only Franklin Rose, who was dropped before he scored, looked like achieving double figures.

Rejected Smith steadies the ship

By Pat Gibson

EDGBASTON (first day of four) Leicestershire won toss; Leicestershire have scored 190 for six wickets against Warwickshire

BEN SMITH is one of several county cricketers who must have spent much of the England wending if they notice of their performances in the Britannic Assurance Championship. Fortunately for Leicestershire, his disappointment at failing to find a place on any of the winter tours did not put him off his game.

Their good fortune in being able to play at all, while Surrey and Lancashire were being held up by the weather, was balanced by the fact that

Warwickshire have at last begun to show why they were the pre-season favourites.

In recognition of the importance of this fixture, Warwickshire, who are now looking for the consolation prize of qualification for next season's Super Cup, rolled out the "Brimble" for the first time in a

looking pitch, but Leicestershire had slumped to 53 for four before Smith revived them with an unbeaten 82.

There was some bounce and movement for Brown and Giddins, another who had to swallow his disappointment after failing to win over the selectors with his 70 wickets

moving with a flurry of drives on both sides of the wicket, which had brought him five fours in 24 when Munton, who has not stopped taking wickets since returning to the Warwickshire side three matches ago, plunged Leicestershire into further trouble.

In his first over, Sutcliffe, tucking a short ball off his hip, was well caught by Brown at leg gully; in his second, Simmons, pushing outside off stump, was caught behind. So it was left to Smith to sustain Leicestershire—and how well he did it. He has always been a conscientious player and now he could not have been more positive, cutting and pulling fiercely and clipping the ball crisply off his toes as he moved to his fifty off 61 balls with nine fours.

championship match all summer and managed to salvage 48 overs from the rain.

It turned out to be a mixed blessing for Leicestershire. Simmons, still captaining the side even though Lewis is back in it, chose to bat on a decent-

this season, and they took advantage of it to remove both openers inside nine overs. Wells, playing back to brown, was taken by Piper and Maddy was leg-before going nowhere against Giddins. Sutcliffe got Leicestershire

Franks shows pace to prove a point

By John Stern

CHELMSFORD (second day of four) England Under-19 have a first-innings lead of 64 against Pakistan Under-19

PAUL FRANKS was in the mood to prove a point yesterday. The Nottinghamshire all-rounder, who can count himself exceedingly unlucky not to be going to Zimbabwe and South Africa this winter, took four Pakistan wickets and sent Hasan Raza, their best batsman, to hospital with a crack on the finger.

Hasan returned later and hit an entertaining 60 off 49 balls, including two straight sixes, which enabled Pakistan Under-19 to save the follow-on with their last pair at the crease. Irfan Fazil, the No 11, had the temerity to hit Grover, the quickest England bowler, for four consecutive boundaries and brought up his fifty off only 46 balls. This tenth-wicket partnership, which added 104 in only 16 overs, turned from an annoyance for England into a stand of some

value that may yet affect the outcome of this third NatWest four-day international. Earlier, Grover and Logan, England's own last-wicket pair, had taken their stand to 106 with similarly carefree hitting—and their side's total to 423.

Franks, who is top of the Nottinghamshire county championship bowling averages, extracted bounce from an easy-paced pitch, to the alarm of the Pakistan batsmen. He had Inam-ul-Haq, the opener, caught behind off a lifter in the third over and Grover bowled Bazid Khan, the captain.

Hasan retired hurt and Faisal Iqbal, his replacement, was out first ball, caught well down by Shah at second slip off Franks. Zayyad slip off Franks. Zayyad took three balls later, Humayun Farhat was caught at deep square leg. Imran Nazir, who made 90 in the previous game at Taunton, played another innings of substance, making 65 before edging Haywood to Shah at slip.

Maynard finding century elusive

By Rupert Cox

HOVE (second day of four) Sussex, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 21 runs behind Glamorgan

HAVING scored centuries in each of his 14 seasons in the first-class game, since his debut hundred in 1985, Matthew Maynard's proud record now lies under threat. Nonetheless, the Glamorgan captain's dominant 94 thrust his team into the ascendancy at Hove yesterday.

Maynard, who scored his last century at Taunton as Glamorgan clinched the Britannic Assurance county championship last summer, mixed ferocious pulls with a series of clinical straight drives to such good effect that the afternoon session produced 175 runs, although Tony Cottee mustered only 27 of a fourth-wicket stand of 102 in 24 overs.

However, in sight of a well-deserved hundred, Maynard, coming back for a second run, was beaten by the return from

Robin Martin-Jenkins after an innings that lasted only 109 balls and was embellished by 16 fours and a six. Cottee then grabbed the reins and completed a disciplined 91 from 134 balls before three wickets in five balls revitalised Sussex's hopes.

Darren Thomas, celebrating his inclusion in the England A tour party, had polished off the Sussex first innings in the morning for the addition of 19 runs. Jason Lewry edged a lifter to the wicketkeeper before Thomas took his 65th wicket of the summer when Nick Wilton sliced to backward point. The Glamorgan's opening batsmen quickly settled into a canter, posting 79 by the lunch interval. Wayne Law again impressed with some flamboyant strokeplay, but it was his eagerness to dominate that proved his undoing. Driving loosely at Mark Robinson, he edged to second slip. Two balls later, Alun Evans was trapped leg-before and Lewry then induced an edge from Adrian Dale.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with multiple columns: BASEBALL, NATIONAL LEAGUE, AMERICAN LEAGUE, BOWLS, COUNTY MATCHES, CRICKET, FOOTBALL, MONDAY'S TEST RESULTS, BASKETBALL, TENNIS, GOLF, MOTOR RACING, RACING, CRICKET, FOOTBALL.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Morgan's suffering continues. Snooker: Injuries sustained during the summer prevented Terry Murphy from taking part in the final qualifying round of the European Open at Plymouth yesterday and provided an insurmountable handicap for Darren Morgan. Murphy was forced to withdraw after breaking an ankle while playing football and Morgan, who sustained damaged ligaments, a dislocated hip and bruised ribs in a car accident, must have wished that he had followed the same course of action. Against the advice of his surgeon, J. P. R. Williams, the former Wales and British Isles rugby international, Morgan decided to continue. Crossing the pain barrier was in vain, however, as he lost 5-3 to Tony Knowles. "I feel like I've been through a mincing machine," Morgan, who entered the arena on crutches, said. BASEBALL: Sammy Sosa, of the Chicago Cubs, became the leading scorer of home runs with Mark McGwire, of St Louis Cardinals, when he hit his 55th of the season during the 5-4 defeat of Cincinnati Reds at Wrigley Field on Monday night. Both Sosa and McGwire are on course to break the record of Roger Maris, set by the New York Yankees, in 1961. BOWLS: Jenny Judd, 17, an agricultural college student from Pontypool, and Doris Woodley, from Rodbourne Cheney, near Swindon, defeated Maureen Monkton and Edna Bessell, from Yeovil, the new English champions, 17-15 in the final of the Darlows Weston-super-Mare Open pairs tournament.

Beware of false gods bearing gifts

At the back of every drinks cupboard in England...

A birthday is pleasant because it is special, even for a grown-up.

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

We've had such a wonderful holiday, haven't we? And when we get home...

And, somehow, the ouzo is never drunk, nor the moussaka cooked. The entire Super League stuff is based on the Ouzo Principle...

Of course it would destroy scarcity value and the essential rhythm of treat...

Is there anybody at all that has the long-term good of sport as the priority in sporting matters?

The neutrals, the floating voters, the capricious zappers - these are the people who really matter.

Yates happy to reflect positive team spirit

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN BERLIN

JONATHAN Edwards asked yesterday for his name to be kept on the Great Britain team-sheet for the World Cup...

When the line-up was announced nine days ago, Yates was named as a travelling reserve.

After conquering Europe twice this season, winning the men's European Cup...

Yates said the mood in the British team was the best that he could remember



Yates said the mood in the British team was the best that he could remember

winner and money for second and third that patently, Yates cannot compete for it...

David Moorcroft, who is leading the attempt to set up a new structure for the sport in Britain.

Once, when Yates was asked why people regarded him as brash, cocky and arrogant, he replied: "Because I am."

than it has been in its recent history," Yates said.

Yates opted for acquiescence, though he believes that Anthony Whiteman should have moved from 1,500 metres to take Maycock's place...

Jayne Piroe, the Great Britain team spokeswoman, said yesterday that Edwards hoped that his injured ankle might respond to treatment...

EUROSIA, the Italian-owned Swan 46, took a firm hold on the Rolex Swan World Cup at Porto Cervo in Sardinia yesterday.

ard Loftus's Swan 65, Desperado, with Russell Coutts's Swan 60, Innovation 5, third.

Advertisement for mortgage services: Sleep easy. Enjoy a 4.99%* fixed rate mortgage until October 2000.

Advertisement for sailing: SAILING. Chieffi masters course. EUROSIA, the Italian-owned Swan 46...

And the starter for ten...

University Challenge BBC2, 8.00pm

Teams from the Universities of Bristol and Manchester kick off the new series of the student quiz...

Two Fat Ladies BBC2, 8.30pm

"If you don't want to know the score, look away now" is Jennifer Paterson's witty way of warning the squeamish among us about the impending death of a lobster...

Deadly Crocodiles ITV, 9.00pm

We first met Steve Irwin, the voluble Australian wildlife expert, when he went in search of the world's ten deadliest snakes...



Jeremy Paxman retakes the chair in a new series of the university quiz (BBC2, 8pm)

Wild. A huge male croc which has been hanging about a campsite in northern Australia gives Irwin the chance to put theory into practice...

Daddy's Girl Channel 4, 9.00pm

Tricky father-daughter relationships are explored in a film by Edmund Coulthard and Arne Partiso in which a powerful common factor is the absence of the mother...

RADIO CHOICE section listing various radio programs and their details.

RADIO 1 section listing radio programs like Gloria Estefan's Sounds of Miami and Radio 2.

RADIO 5 LIVE and VIRGIN RADIO sections listing radio programs.

TALK RADIO section listing radio programs like Bill Overton and Kirby Young.

RADIO 3 section listing radio programs like Organist Robert Quinney.

RADIO 4 section listing radio programs like 6.00am Today, 4.00 News, and 4.30 Thinking Allowed.

Large advertisement on the right side of the page with the word 'Nature' and other text.

WORD-WATCHING. Answers from page 35.

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Small advertisement on the far right edge of the page.



FOOTBALL 35

Redknapp ready to reignite his England career

SPORT

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2 1998

ATHLETICS 38

Golley stands by to replace injured Edwards



Crawley preferred for final place

Hick's career turns to ashes after rejection

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IN ALL of sport, there will have been nobody more devastated yesterday than Graeme Hick. In the early morning moments at a Taunton hotel, where he took a telephone call from David Graveney and heard the reality of rejection from England's Ashes plans, Hick will have felt a large part of his world crumbling.

Only last Thursday, he scored a Test match century at the Oval. Even if the caution born of long and turbulent experience told him to make no assumptions, his subconscious would have begun to make plans for winter in Australia. It would have been superhuman not to do so.

Yet, within 24 hours, John Crawley had made a century of greater conviction and significance. The selectors, divided over the virtues of the pair and certain only that one must miss out, began at last to

come together for what Graveney, their chairman, called "the most difficult decision I have been involved in". Compared with this, the rest of the tour party was chosen easily. Even the one selection to cause wide surprise, that of Peter Such, was simplified by a shortage of plausible opposition in the spin bowling department and a reluctance to return to the evidently untrusted Philip Tufnell.

Dean Headley's inclusion will have dismayed Ed Giddins and further disillusioned Andy Caddick, but the choice of Warren Hegg as second wicketkeeper was made for thoughtful, valid reasons and the additional place created for Alex Tudor acknowledges the urgent need to identify and promote a bowler of genuine pace.

It is a largely unexceptionable squad, arrived at by a

series of debates between the four selectors and after canvassing many independent views. It is a squad that gives England their best chance in a decade of regaining the Ashes — but try telling that to Hick.

For four years, during which he has been loudly lauded and vituperatively derided by a public he has unwittingly polarised, Hick has dreamed of returning to Australia. Last time he toured there, he was 98 not out when Michael Atherton declared, "I want to get back to Sydney," he said with relish, recently. "It owes me a couple of runs."

The dream was shattered in the cruellest way, for the selectors offered him a lifeline after his feeble failures against South Africa, and he took it gratefully. Then they cut the rope, leaving Hick confused and distraught.

Graveney cannot have enjoyed the conversation. "It's the worst part of this job. To say he is bitterly disappointed understates the case, but that is as it should be," he said. That Hick should respond with appropriate emotion may be thought ironic, for if only his batting had displayed similar passion, rather than the inhibitions that too often shackle him, he might well be touring.

Crawley is a lucky man. He would not even have played at the Oval but for the groin injury that incapacitated Nasser Hussain, and then there would have been no doubt which of the two would have gone. As it was, he made his case eloquently and he travels in a utility role, standing by to open the batting if needed.

It would be wrong to label Such as lucky, for in four

Lloyd in hot water twice with ECB

DAVID LLOYD, whose passion for all things English has been so instrumental in the improved atmosphere and performance of the national team, has endangered his position as coach by turning that very virtue into a destructive enemy (Alan Lee writes).

Lloyd faces an unpleasant session with the officers of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), possibly today, at which his ill-judged remarks questioning the action of Muttiah Muralitharan, the Sri Lanka off-spinner, will be investigated.

Yesterday, Tim Lamb, chief executive of the ECB, condemned Lloyd's comments as "inappropriate and insensitive". The board is also upset

at reports that Lloyd confronted Geoffrey Boycott in a television commentary box on Monday, over personal remarks made on air, and says that both matters are being taken "very seriously".

A wide range of sanctions could be levied upon him, including instant dismissal from a contract that runs to the end of the World Cup next summer. Lloyd's position is all the more vulnerable as he was severely reprimanded by the ECB for an incident in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, two winters ago.

A further warning seems the likeliest outcome to a regrettable episode. To dismiss Lloyd for such a transgression would be an over-reaction.

Crossword puzzle grid and clues. Includes clues like '1 Tomorrow, sometime (Sp.) (6)', '5 Broached (6)', '8 Smart, genteel (4)', '9 Hail Mary prayer (3,5)', '10 Coupons (8)', '12 Against an opponent (4)', '13 Fit to employ (6)', '15 Penetrate (6)', '17 Starch for puddings (4)', '19 Renegade (8)', '21 Give incentive to (8)', '23 Baghdad's capital (4)', '24 Invented; composed (quarrel) (4,2)', '25 Devon city (6)'. Down clues include '2 In loving mood (7)', '3 For particular purpose (2,3)', '4 Stupefaction (9)', '5 Lyric poem (3)', '6 Issue, proceed (from) (7)', '7 Authoritative order (5)', '11 Displace (9)', '14 A sedative; a platitude (7)', '16 Traversy; party-game act (7)', '18 Wafted smell (5)', '20 (Clock) sound; agree (with) (5)', '22 Unit of current (abbr.) (3)'. Your manager: G A Gooch, Coach: D Lloyd.

No 1500

- ACROSS: 1 Tomorrow, sometime (Sp.) (6), 5 Broached (6), 8 Smart, genteel (4), 9 Hail Mary prayer (3,5), 10 Coupons (8), 12 Against an opponent (4), 13 Fit to employ (6), 15 Penetrate (6), 17 Starch for puddings (4), 19 Renegade (8), 21 Give incentive to (8), 23 Baghdad's capital (4), 24 Invented; composed (quarrel) (4,2), 25 Devon city (6). DOWN: 2 In loving mood (7), 3 For particular purpose (2,3), 4 Stupefaction (9), 5 Lyric poem (3), 6 Issue, proceed (from) (7), 7 Authoritative order (5), 11 Displace (9), 14 A sedative; a platitude (7), 16 Traversy; party-game act (7), 18 Wafted smell (5), 20 (Clock) sound; agree (with) (5), 22 Unit of current (abbr.) (3).

- SOLUTION TO NO 1499: ACROSS: 1 Without fail, 7 Slide, 8 Ego-trip, 10 Intimacy, 11 Mill, 13 Glance, 15 Bongos, 17 Each, 18 Quandary, 21 Lie back, 22 Tide, 23 Trojan Horse. DOWN: 1 Wishing-well, 2 Twist, 3 Over-much, 4 Trench, 5 Avon, 6 Lurking, 9 Polystyrene, 12 Top-notch, 14 Ancient, 16 Gurkha, 19 Altar, 20 Halo.

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years without a Test cap he has been the most effective spinner in county cricket. He has profited, however, from the failure of Ian Salisbury, the suspicion that Ashley Giles is not good enough and the tendency to categorise Tufnell among those whose presence does little to sustain touring equilibrium.

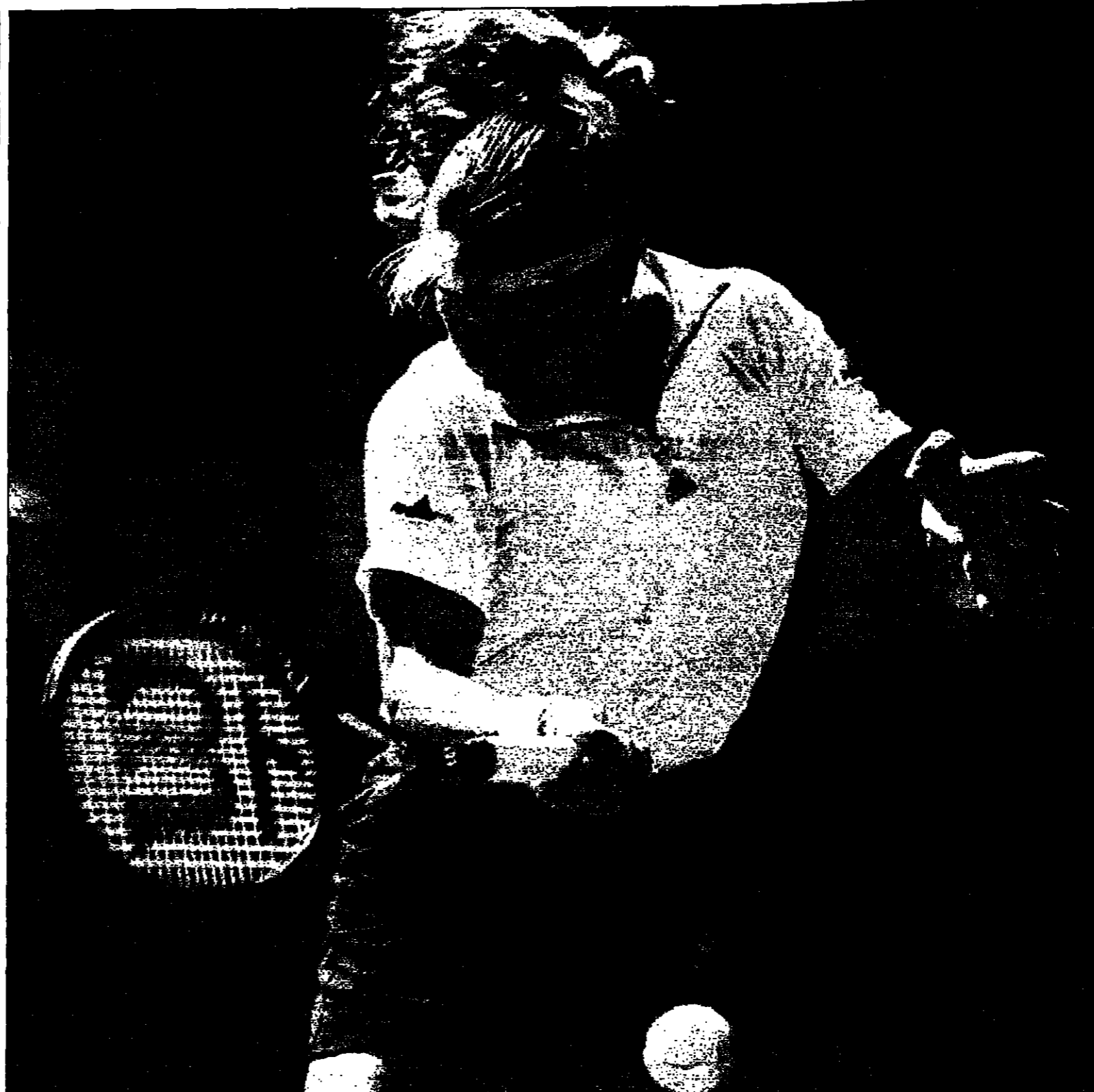
Most of all, Such has been picked on the theory that an off-break bowler in alliance with a left-arm seam bowler, Alan Mullally, can be an effective weapon on Australian pitches. He will certainly be a popular tourist, something that applies equally to Hegg, and while nobody should be included merely for being a good guy, Graveney emphasised that personalities were closely assessed.

Caddick will be one whose undoubted credentials — he is the leading wicket-taker this season and took another eight yesterday — were countered by an impression that he seldom produces his best under pressure.

The team, under Adam Hoollock, to play in the ICC Trophy in Bangladesh next month includes two old faces in Jack Russell and Neil Fairbrother, largely because the decision not to send senior Test players came with a compromise that the chosen men would all have international experience.

By contrast, the A team to tour Zimbabwe and South Africa, captained by Michael Vaughan, contains only one man with a Test cap, Andrew Flintoff. All of the 15 bar Jason Levy have graduated through the under-19 side, though surprisingly only two of this summer's successful team are included and Owais Shah, the captain, is left out.

Spin of the wheel, page 36



Graf's face is a study in concentration as she plays a forehand volley during her victory over Morariu yesterday. Photograph: Elise Amendola

Graf takes hard road to victory

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN NEW YORK

THE firm impression from Steffi Graf's opening-round victory in the US Open here yesterday was that she may have lost the ability to cruise. Each match now has to be won the hard way, as it was with her 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 victory over Corina Morariu, of the United States.

Morariu, world ranked No 32, was not expected to trouble the German. Yet, the outcome was in the balance until Graf, five times a US Open champion, gathered herself for the final push. Her confidence melted in mild sunshine in the second set, when Morariu was allowed a glimpse of victory. It was so unlike the Graf of old, who would have dismissed her opponent with barely a flick of her forehand.

The worrying aspect for Graf, 29, is that she should have been thriving after her tournament victory in New Haven on Saturday. Her victories over Lindsay Davenport and Jana Novotna to secure her first title in 16 months should have strengthened her brittle spirits. Her latest comeback from injury has run for three months but, before Saturday, she had yet to master an opponent in the top ten. All that should have been purged by her weekend triumph.

It was not Graf opened the match with a flurry of forehand winners, breaking Morariu in the opening game before repelling her

opponent's counter-attack midway through the set. The outcome looked a formality when Graf secured that set with a drop shot so sublime that one almost felt for Morariu. She would surely perish quickly under Graf's inevitable assault.

She did not. Morariu found her range on her errant first service, aiming all her artillery at Graf's backhand. As Morariu's confidence lifted, so Graf's accuracy deserted her. The ruthless streak within this famed player was nowhere to be seen. She became tentative, made unforced errors aplenty, and it was Morariu who held firm when serving to level the match.

A clean backhand winner at



Sampras: easy passage

set point underlined her rising ambition and Graf, seeded No 8 on the strength of her reputation, looked anything but the winner of 104 tournaments. "I just sat down after the second set and told myself that this was not the way to continue," she said. "I needed a better attitude and it helped that I played well last week."

Graf was understandably keen to emphasise the positive. She believes that she is progressing all the time. "A couple of weeks ago my attitude wasn't so good because I hadn't played enough," she said, "but that is changing. I must get more consistent and improve my physical strength. It will help me a lot that I was able to turn this match around in the second set."

Even when she rallied to break Morariu's resilience early in the third set, Graf's demeanour never changed. She had been forced to abandon her instincts and chisel out her place in the second round, where she will play Marlene Weingartner, a qualifier from Germany. Graf, plainly searching for her assertive qualities, can expect less resistance from her compatriot.

In the men's matches, Mark Philippoussis overwhelmed Christian Ruud, of Norway, despite the fact that the underdog opened brightly. Philippoussis, who lurks as a

potential fourth-round opponent for Tim Henman, belted down 21 aces in the course of his 7-5, 6-4, 6-3 victory. "I haven't done well this summer but the good thing is that I am feeling great at the moment," Philippoussis said.

Of the 16 men's seeds, none was set a more demanding first-round assignment than Jonas Bjorkman. The Swede, seeded No 12, came through in

five difficult sets against Cedric Pioline, the Frenchman who missed a seeded berth by one world-ranking place. Bjorkman, who triumphed 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, 6-7, 6-2, next faces Jonathan Stark. Pete Sampras, the No 1 seed, progressed to a second-round meeting with Paul Goldstein late on Monday night, after a comfortable victory over Marc-Kevin Gollner.

Wiser Agassi, page 37

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Adams 'entitled to views'

By MATT DICKINSON

THE Football Association did its best yesterday to insist that Tony Adams's controversial book involved only the sharpening of pencils rather than knives. While the latest spilling of secrets from the England camp makes fascinating reading, however, it can only have heightened the pressure on Glenn Hoddle to ensure that he has the ultimate response to his growing band of critics — a successful team.

Hoddle chose to keep his counsel yesterday over Adams's accusations that he treated his players like children, belittled David Beckham in training and chose the wrong captain in Alan Shearer. He had already read a draft manuscript which he discussed with the Arsenal defender and will pick him in the opening European championship qualifying match in Sweden. Whatever his private

thoughts, Hoddle could hardly have acted in any other way. In appearing to break some of the trust and confidentiality that should exist between a manager and his players through the publication of his own World Cup Diary, the England coach would have laid himself open to accusations of hypocrisy had he tried to silence his players.

As Brendan Batson, deputy chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said yesterday: "After Glenn's book it is now open season." While few of Adams's World Cup revelations will have shocked any of the England party, the publicising of grievances has come at a bad time with so much attention being paid to his own scribbles. More criticisms are expected to be serialised throughout the week, including his belief in the value of faith-healing, which is not shared by many in the squad.

Hoddle will explain his thoughts to the media this morning, so it was left yesterday to Peter Taylor, the England Under-21 coach, to play down the affair. "I would be staggered if there was any problem between the England management and Tony," Taylor said. "We respect him. If that is what Tony feels, he is only being honest."

David Davies, the FA's director of communications, added: "Tony Adams's views on England's World Cup campaign must be read in full, not in single sentences or as headlines. Glenn and Tony have talked. There is no problem. We are living in 1998, not 1939, and Tony has expressed his honestly-held views."

سكزا من الاصل

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off. Visible text includes 'Carolyn Monroe: collapse of marriage', 'Russia', 'worse than in', 'Global paedo', and 'Are yo'.